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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Pamela Smart case: One of the four teens jailed for more than a decade for helping Pamela Smart kill her husband faces a parole revocation hearing on July 27.

Raymond Fowler recently was summoned by police in Salisbury, Mass., on a complaint of disturbing the peace on June 7, Salisbury Police Chief Richard Simmons said.

In 1990, Fowler, then 18, waited in the getaway car while friend William Flynn shot insurance salesman Gregory Smart in the Derry, N.H., condominium he shared with his wife, Pamela. Flynn, 16 at the time, had been having an affair with Pamela.

GOP eavesdropping: Virginia Democrats have subpoenaed records from the state police and a federal prosecutor in their eavesdropping lawsuit against the Republican Party.

Attorneys for a group of Democratic lawmakers have subpoenaed state police Superintendent Steven Flaherty and U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty to demand documents related to the eavesdropping investigation. They also have subpoenaed records from Attorney General Jerry Kilgore's office in an effort to find out more about his top aide's involvement in the case.

Transgender killing: In life, 17-year-old Edward Araujo Jr. wanted to be known by the name friends and family agreed best suited the transgender teenager, Gwen. In death, the wish has been granted.

A judge posthumously granted the name change 18 months after Araujo was beaten and strangled and less than two weeks after a mistrial was declared in the case against three men accused in the killing. Guerrero had filed for the name change in May.

World

Iran-Britain dispute: Iran denied London's allegation that it forced British servicemen into its territorial waters and then detained them for illegal entry, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Thursday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said he was surprised when British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon told the House of Commons on Wednesday the servicemen had reported after their release last month they had not steered their boats on to the Iranian side of the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

Asefi said that during negotiations before Iran released the servicemen, British diplomats signed a copy of minutes from a meeting that acknowledged the British boats en-



VAL GEMPI/AFP

True colors: Children from Yokota Air Base, Japan, wave the red, white and blue to celebrate the Fourth of July during a concert at the Taiyo Community Center. The kids were part of the Vivace summer camp on base. Vivace is a performing arts and drama program that promotes theater, music and dance to children at Yokota.

tered the Iranian waters by mistake.

Taiwan weapons sale: Taiwan's defense minister said Friday he wants the United States to accelerate the delivery of a proposed \$18 billion to buy anti-missile systems, planes and submarines from the United States. Minister Lee Jye told media executives Friday that China's growing military strength motivated him to ask Washington to speed up the delivery.

Madrid bombings: Spain's government declassified dozens of documents Friday for lawmakers investigating the Madrid terror attack, but withheld others, including one reportedly warning that an al-Qaida threat to attack Spain should be taken seriously.

Next week, a 16-member legislative commission begins investigating the March 11 railway bombing that killed 190 people, an attack blamed on Islamic militants with possible links to al-Qaida.

The commission, in requesting documents, had asked to see pre-March 11 intelligence reports on what threat Spain faced from Islamic militants.

Al-Qaida hunt: Two tribal elders accused of sheltering al-Qaida militants in a remote tribal region near Afghanistan surrendered to authorities Friday, a day after Pakistan's

president vowed to wipe out foreign militants and their local supporters, the military said.

Eda Khan and Dawar Khan, both of the Spertal War tribe, were taken into custody in Shakai, the scene of last month's military operation during which authorities say they killed 100 people, including 30 local tribesmen.

Indonesia terror: Indonesia wants to interrogate top regional terror suspect Hambali and told the U.S. secretary of state Friday that its appeal for access to the suspect — who is in American custody — is more urgent following the recent arrests of six militants here.

Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda made the request to interrogate Hambali at a meeting with Colin Powell on the sidelines of the security meeting, Indonesian officials said. Powell said U.S. authorities would consider the request, said foreign ministry spokesman Marty Natalegawa.

Fighting in Afghanistan: U.S. and Afghan troops battled rebels in a mountainous Taliban stronghold, killing five and capturing seven, officials said Friday.

Four other people were reported killed in separate clashes in Uruzgan province.

U.S. spokesman Maj. Rick Peat said one Afghan soldier was injured in the fighting, which broke out when a joint U.S.-Afghan patrol encountered a group of militants.

Stories from The Associated Press

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THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL
Expires 7/10/04

Heroic war bridge way to Baghdad

2 Marine combat engineers receive Bronze Star for ensuring safe crossing for advance into Iraq

BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

On a pivotal night in April of 2003, two Marine combat engineers battled two different obstacles a few miles apart that proved their mettle and allowed the units they accompanied to cross into Baghdad and set up a foothold.

Both Marines have since come to Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station in Japan, where they share wartime experiences with a new crop of combat engineers.

In June, both received one of the military's highest medals for valor: the Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device.

Both showed courage, leadership and poise under pressure, said Gunnery Sgt. Scott Cooper, their current company first sergeant, who served in the same battalion in Iraq.

Marines are tested most "when you're being shot at and mortars are coming in," he said. "They didn't hesitate when it was time to get it done."

The entire division was following on its way into Baghdad by doing what they did, he added, the two ensured that those forces made it through.

The Marines, Sgt. Mauricio Guevara and Sgt. Adam Lauritzen, both 23, now work for Marine Wing Support Squadron 171. They say their medals are a reflection of the squads they led and play down the accomplishment.

"I owe it all to my Marines," Lauritzen said. "What's one guy? One guy is a target."

But on April 6, 2003, accepting that risk proved their valor.

Building bridges

Sgt. Guevara and the company he was attached to were the first to reach the bridge, the last barrier to Baghdad. The troops had been heading toward this point for two weeks.

Iraqis had blown apart a large portion of the bridge, so combat engineers were called forward to fix it.

"We found scaffolding in the town the night before," he said. Guevara made a plan to disassemble the scaffolding, carry it to the bridge and patch the hole so the companies could cross. All under the eye of the enemy on the other side.

"We thought it would take 10 minutes. It took two."

A combat engineer's job is to clear obstacles, whether the obstacle is something like a minefield or a gaping hole in a bridge.

When necessary, they grab rifles and join infantrymen or provide their own security. They're both technical and tactical.

"They push up in front of the combat forces," Cooper said. "They have a lot of responsibility as sergeant engineers."

For Guevara, the solution to his obstacle was a quick patch.

The first part of the mission required Guevara and his men to inspect the bridge. With a small security escort, four engineers raced to the bridge under cover of darkness with a quarter of the bridge assigned to each.

Guevara had the first section on the far side. He ran over a 50-foot bridge to provide two minutes of illumination — a flare that would also expose them to enemy fire.

He made it back and later learned that the other side of the bridge was technically Baghdad. He had been one of the first Americans to enter the city.

The engineers and a security escort set out to fix the bridge. On the way they took fire and the tracked vehicle accompanying them was hit, killing two and injuring several others. Guevara led component to the vehicle and aided the injured and tagged the dead. They still had a bridge to repair.

"Everybody was still a little shaky," Guevara said. "But that's what we train for."

Guevara said being fired at wasn't so bad. It had happened all the way up to that point. "It's not like the first time. The first time there's some hesitation. After that it's just reaction."

The most difficult part of the mission wasn't the barrage of fire. It was the uncertainty, not knowing if, when the incoming firing stops, it means the enemy was stopped or is just waiting for him to run to the bridge.

"You know for sure there's enemy on the other side," he said. "You're just hoping" they're incapacitated.

A field of mines

The same day Guevara reached the bridge, Sgt. Lauritzen was a few miles away facing a different damaged bridge with a tank battalion he was attached to. The bridge was protected on either side by minefields.

Lauritzen set off the mine-clearing line charge, or MCLC, a rocket that shoots out a line of charges to detonate a path through the field.

"When an MCLC goes off it doesn't always get all the mines out of the way," he said.

Lauritzen followed and carefully denoted the remaining mines with C-4 explosive to clear the way. While he worked, he felt the vibrations of fire.

"I thought it was our tanks firing the other way," he said. He didn't know it was enemy machine-gun fire coming at him.

At the bridge, he decided on a different type of patch. They used an armored-vehicle-launched bridge that pops open to cover the hole. The engineers patched the bridge and the forces began crossing.

On the other side, Lauritzen saw the bridge was packed with TNT. They found a dead Iraqi man nearby still clutching a detonator.

SEE BRONZE ON PAGE 4



ROBERT W. WYNKOOP/Courtesy of the United States Marine Corps

Sgt. Adam Lauritzen, left, and Sgt. Mauricio Guevara, combat engineers with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan, receive the Bronze Star Medal with combat distinguishing device for their service during Operation Iraqi Freedom, from Col. Stephen Fenstermacher, commander of Marine Wing Support Group 17, during a ceremony last month.

STARS AND STRIPES

Your Hometown Newspaper

Letter from the Publisher

Dear Stars and Stripes Readers,

I am pleased to announce the launch of Scene, a new section in Stars and Stripes on Sundays. Starting July 4, read about practical information that reflects your lifestyle and entertainment interests in Scene.

- Thought-provoking articles from around the world and close to home
- Information about your favorite stars, the latest fashion trends and where to spend your leave
- Reviews of movies, music, and video games
- Listings of activities, festivals, concerts in your area
- Diversions such as Dave Barry's column, crosswords, and cartoons by servicemembers

Scene is your one-stop shop for lifestyle and entertainment content formerly found in Stars' Accent, Pulse and Sunday sections.

Scene is just one example of Stars and Stripes' commitment to providing timely news and information for and about the military to America's men and women in uniform. This year we have significantly expanded our newspaper printing and distribution in forward-deployed areas where our servicemembers face adversity every day. We now print and distribute 67,000 papers daily in the Middle East. This expansion supports Stars and Stripes' core mission: to support military servicemembers and their families by keeping them informed with U.S. world and military news and information. We are proud to be serving forward-deployed servicemembers as they serve our country.

To continue to provide quality coverage, expanded material like Scene and newspapers to servicemembers in harm's way, the single-copy price of the Sunday newspaper will change from \$7.50 to \$11.00, starting July 4, 2004. Stars and Stripes recognizes the value of its loyal readers and will therefore, continue to offer the Sunday newspaper to its subscribers for \$7.75. To take advantage of the convenience of Stars and Stripes' home delivery program and special discounts, see our customer service phone numbers in the paper for an office near you. You can also contact your carrier or use the Get Our Paper button at the Stars and Stripes Web site at www.strips.com.

Thank you for reading and continuing to support Stars and Stripes: Your Hometown Newspaper.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Kelsch
Publisher

Kitty Hawk: 'We are always surge-ready'

Carrier participates in Summer Pulse '04

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Call it surging, or call it pulsing; it's really just FDNF-ing. And nobody FDNFs like the USS Kitty Hawk, its sailors say.

"It's what we do," said Lt. Brook Dewalt, a Kitty Hawk spokesman.

So Summer Pulse 2004, the Navy's first test of its new plan to be able to swiftly provide substantial sea-based combat power, isn't causing many anxiety attacks on the nation's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier.

"We're already positioned to get where we need to be in a pretty good fashion," Dewalt said. "This is what the Forward Deployed Naval Forces does. When we get under way, we're already deployed. We're always on the leading edge. We are always surge-ready."

The Kitty Hawk Carrier Strike Group is one of seven aircraft carrier strike groups surging, or pulsing, this summer, participating in the event that will put more than 50,000 sailors from seven aircraft carrier strike groups in exercises throughout the world's seas, now through August.

All the other strike groups — the USS George Washington, USS John C. Stennis,



THOMAS J. GODDARD/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Lt. Ray S. Hovijitra of Indianapolis and his assistant, detanman Donald Fulcher of Portland, Ore., perform a dental exam on a sailor Thursday on the USS Kitty Hawk as part of the ship's mission readiness plan. The Kitty Hawk Strike Group is currently operating as part of Summer Pulse 2004, the simultaneous deployment of seven carrier strike groups.

USS John F. Kennedy, USS Harry S. Truman, USS Enterprise and USS Ronald Reagan are homeported in the U.S. and previously have been on a more regimented cycle for when the ships are at sea and when they're in port.

Summer Pulse is a test of the Fleet Response Plan, which updates that old schedule with the idea of providing for a more flexible fleet that can deploy in strength faster than before.

In particular, the plan calls for six carrier

er strike groups to be ready to deploy within 30 days, and two more to be ready within 90 days. According to Adm. William Fallon, commander of the U.S. Fleet Forces Command and quoted on the command Web site, "It will signal to friends and potential adversaries that substantial sea-based combat power can respond on short notice."

But the Kitty Hawk, Dewalt noted, surged to support both recent operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. In Afghanistan, the carrier served as the platform for special operations. That showed a flexibility then that Summer Pulse is testing more broadly now.

"That was a huge effort. It wasn't just the Navy. It was all assets of the military," Dewalt said.

Summer Pulse started last month and included the Rim of the Pacific multinational exercise in waters around Hawaii. In addition, the USS Enterprise, which pulsed from Norfolk, Va., on June 3 to the European waters to engage in NATO exercises, pulled into Portsmouth, England, last week for a port call.

Sometime this summer, the Kitty Hawk will surge out of port and into its Summer Pulse at-sea contribution. "We'll be summer pulsing, which is FDNF-ing," Dewalt said. "We're fully on board."

E-mail Nancy Montgomery at: montgomerynj@stripes.osd.mil

Bronze: Heroic bridge work carried troops into Baghdad

FROM BRONZE, PAGE 3

Past the bridge, the second minefield stopped the advance. Still under heavy fire, they repeated the clearing process. But there wasn't enough time to carefully and slowly detonate remaining mines.

Lauritzen raced out and began moving the remaining mines by hand. The first one was on fire.

He delicately moved about eight mines to the side to clear the path. Each could have cost him his life.

"We needed to get out there.

We were pretty exposed," he said. "At the time you just do the job, you don't really think about it. I violated almost all the SOPs (standard operating procedures) we've got."

Becoming a hero

Both Marines say they're proud to receive their medal, but feel it should have gone to their entire squad. Guevara turned down a Navy Achievement Medal because his entire squad wouldn't receive one.

"The whole thing was a squad effort," he said.

Lauritzen agreed. "There's things happening every day that go unnoticed" in Iraq.

Both sergeants are using their combat experience and the respect earned from their medals to influence a new generation of combat engineers.

"They share their experience with the inexperienced," Cooper said. "They put a sense of reality into it. Everybody listens to them now because of their experience."

The experience of real combat can't be replicated. Few young Marines have anything to compare it to.

"We had to rely on movies" to see what war looks like, Guevara said.

When young Marines complain about having to learn techniques they may not use, or training in extremely austere conditions, the veteran sergeants can tell them why it is necessary.

"You definitely have to make training tough and realistic," Guevara said. "It was always explained to me but I never really realized it."

He tries now to inspire his Marines and to serve as an example. He also hopes to become an officer and a recruiter some day.

Lauritzen said Marines always ask if he's killed anyone and want to know more about combat.

"They always want to hear the stories," he said. "Combat is at the same time the most confusing and the most simple part of war. You just have to focus."

He said the medal reminds him less of any individual action than of the cohesion his squad developed in war.

"It's kind of like God saying 'you're never going to forget now.'"

E-mail Juliana Gitter at: gitterj@stripes.osd.mil

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MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

Defense officials explain delays in CRSC payments

In December 2002, a law took effect that made Air Force Lt. Col. Gordon J. Brymer of San Antonio, and perhaps 40,000 other military retirees, eligible to have lost retired pay restored, effective June 1, 2003.

Most of them had suffered serious combat-related injuries. When they received VA compensation for service-related conditions, they saw their military retirement reduced or stopped, the result of a law banning "concurrent receipt" of both full retired pay and VA compensation.

Brymer, who has diabetes and heart ailments from exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange in Vietnam, was glad to see Congress finally act to ease that ban. In January 2004, Congress tripled the number of retirees eligible to see retired pay restored under the same program, Combat-Related Special Compensation.

Today, 18 months after Congress created CRSC, Brymer and thousands of retirees suffering from serious combat ailments

and injuries have yet to receive full CRSC. Brymer, 73, figures he is owed at least \$18,000. The total rises monthly by about \$1,400. What irks him more is the lack of official explanation for the delay. "Just tell me what's going on," he said.

In a Wednesday phone interview, officials at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Cleveland described a "mess" of administrative challenges to be addressed. They could not predict when these retirees, perhaps 10 to 15 percent of CRSC applicants, will see full monthly CRSC, or a catch-up payment for missed or partial CRSC payments as far back as June of last year.

The impacted retirees all have 20 or more years of service, and disabilities that the Department of Veterans Affairs decided makes them 100 percent "unemployable" or so severely handicapped that they qualify for Special Monthly Compensation at regular VA disability pay.

Defense officials figured out how to pay

CRSC to replace dollar-for-dollar offsets in retired pay caused by regular VA compensation tied to combat injuries.

But officials have not pinned down how to automate full CRSC for those who lose additional retired pay due to VA compensation offsets. Instead, they rely on individuality as Special Monthly Compensation. This primarily affects officers and senior enlisted, those more likely to have retired pay remaining to offset when they became eligible for IU, SMC or both.

DFAS has had greater success launching Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments, also effective as of Jan. 1. Paid to retirees with disabilities rated 50 percent or higher, that may or may not be combat-related, it also restores lost retirement automatically, versus having to apply for CRSC. But it does so over 10 years, rather than immediately.]

CRSC "is a bit of expectation gone wrong," said Karen Bell, deputy program manager for DFAS retired and annuitant

pay operations based in Cleveland. "People perceived that, as soon as we got the guidance from [the Office of Secretary of Defense in April], we would be able to pay." But that guidance, Bell said, "was still silent on a number of issues and didn't work out the technical processes."

Bell works for Lockheed Martin Corp., which got the contract to run retired pay operations for DFAS in January 2002, part of a wider government initiative to cut administrative costs with private contractors. Defense civilians maintain oversight and, in the same interview, offered assurances that DFAS is working with the VA, the services and policymakers on CRSC.

DFAS officials plan no mass mailings to explain CRSC delays but updates will be posted at www.dfass.mil. Retirees who receive service notification of CRSC approval, but aren't paid within 60 days, can call DFAS at: (800) 321-1080.

To comment on this column, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

Guam celebrates July 4 with Freedom Parade

BY T.D. FLACK

Stars and Stripes

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Hundreds of people joined the Freedom Parade on Friday, an early Fourth of July celebration.

The parade wound its way from the backstage of the Santa Rosa Boulevard to Arc Light Memorial Park, where free food, games and prizes were offered.

Booker Rodgers, one of 36th Services Squadron's head cooks, helped prepare enough food to feed 2,000 guests. The menu included barbecued beef and pork, crawfish, hot wings, rice and chips. Inflatable kiddie pools filled with ice, soda and water were placed in the shade, out of the way of the brutal sun as thermometers crept toward 90 degrees.

Staff Sgt. Michael Swanner found a good

The parade wound its way from Santa Rosa Boulevard to Arc Light Memorial Park, where free food, games and prizes were offered.

way to beat the heat by volunteering to ride the bench in the "dunk tank," where people attempted to dunk him in the water by throwing balls at a target.

Two-year-old Valerie Mejia, dressed in pink and grinning wildly, dunked Swanner with a little help from an attendant. Her prize? A pair of hot pink sunglasses to match her outfit.

Tech. Sgt. Shane Rast, of the 734th Air Mobility Squadron, said he was on "chase-

ing" duty, watching his daughters Madison, 2, and Caroline, 4, as their mother, Andrea, worked a booth selling cotton candy and other treats.

Rast said the event was the first they've attended since arriving on Guam in January.

He said his daughters especially liked the face-painting booth.

About 12 security forces personnel volunteered to provide security at the event.

Senior Airman Forrest VanWest, dressed in a camouflage utility uniform with an orange reflective vest and sunglasses, stood watch near the parking area in range of the smoky smell of the free barbecue.

When asked if he'd rather be in the shade with a cool drink, he answered, "We're security forces. We uphold the standard."

E-mail T.D. Flack at: flacktd@pstripes.osd.mil



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Ben Davis, a child from the Andersen Air Force Base Child Development Center, rides a carousel during Freedom Festival at an Andersen park on Guam.

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Saddam's court appearance grips the Arab world

Photos show fury, defiance of deposed Iraqi dictator

BY JASPER MORTIMER

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Arab newspapers were fascinated by Saddam Hussein's court appearance, publishing Friday a series of photographs of the fallen dictator as he had never been seen before.

Front pages carried as many as 10 pictures of Saddam, many of which showed him arguing with the judge and others in which he appeared confused or was listening respectfully.

"The months of detention had left clear traces," wrote Jamil Al-Hayati in the Jordanian paper *Al-Arab al-Yawm*.

"He looked older and thinner in comparison to the time of his detention. He had lost the prestige of power and authority, but he kept the pride of a detained president."

The major pan-Arab newspaper *Al-Hayat* ran a full-page picture showing Saddam pointing

with two hands at the judge, his eyes blazing in fury.

The former dictator spent much of the hearing arguing over the judge's right to try him.

Saudi Arabia's *Arab News* said nobody should be surprised by his behavior.



Saddam

"He never, in his long and wicked political career, accepted the rule of law," the English-language paper said.

The editor of Egypt's *populist* *Al-Akhar* concurred.

"The charge that should be made against this dictator is that he committed all kinds of injustice against his own people and against all Arabs," Galal Dewidar wrote.

In Lebanon, which opposed



Iraqis sit at home and watch a satellite news broadcast of Saddam Hussein's Thursday court appearance on the al-Arabiya Arab television station in Baghdad, Iraq, on Friday.

the U.S.-led overthrow of Saddam, the leading *An-Nahar* newspaper published a cartoon showing Saddam with a beard made of dead bodies — a reference to the mass graves uncovered since his fall.

Lebanon's *The Daily Star* said in an editorial that the trial would be "a litmus test of not only the Iraqi administration's credibility in the face of strong local opposition, but also as to whether the U.S. has conveyed a change in values based on the rule of law."

Many commentators scoffed at the trial.

The Bahrain Tribune ran a cartoon showing two U.S. soldiers — one holding Saddam by the neck and the other holding a judge like a puppet.

Hassan al-Aali, the head of Bahrain's independent National Committee For the Support of Iraqi People, said: "If there has to be a just trial, then we will have to wait until the Iraqi people elect a new government, not one appointed by the Americans."

In Khawda, the editor of *Al-Akhwa*, Kamal Hassan Bakht, predicted that Saddam "will have the Iraq street on his side."

Kuwaitis had a special reason for attacking Saddam after his court appearance. Defending his 1990 invasion of Kuwait — one of the charges — Saddam angrily said Kuwaitis were "dogs" who wanted Iraqi women to sell themselves "for 10 dinars."

Calling someone a "dog" is a severe insult in the Muslim world, where the animals are considered unclean.

"Let him say whatever he wants," Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah told Kuwait's *Al-Rai Al-Amm*, "his fate will be the same as dogs."

Gadhafi's daughter to join ex-leader's defense team

BY SHAFIKA MATTAR

The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — The daughter of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi wants to help defend Saddam Hussein in court, a Jordanian lawyer and member of the defense team representing the former Iraqi leader said Friday.

Aicha Moammar (Gadhafi) is a law professor and she is ready to join the defense team and form a Libyan law experts team to defend Saddam Hussein," Ziad al-Khasasneh told *The Associated Press*.

"The daughter of the Libyan president is welcomed to join us and we consider her as an official member of the team," he said, adding that the Jordanian-based multinational defense team had telephoned Moammar on Thursday to offer their thanks.

A statement issued late Thursday by a charity association headed by Gadhafi's daughter, who is in her late 20s, said she wanted to guarantee Saddam received a "fair trial (based on) the principle that all accused should be presumed innocent until proven guilty."

The statement, faxed from the

association's office in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, said several Libyan lawyers will join Saddam's defense team, which already includes lawyers from Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Western countries like the United States, Britain, France and Belgium. Saddam and 11 other defendants, all former members of the ousted Iraqi regime, faced court in Baghdad for the first time on Thursday on war crimes and genocide charges. Defense lawyers were not present for the brief arraignment hearing.

Saddam's lawyers have complained of being kept in the dark concerning their client's case, because they did not receive answers to their request to the American administration, the International Committee for the Red Cross and the Iraqi authorities to meet with the ex-Iraqi leader and be present when he was indicted.

Al-Khasasneh said a member of the team, top Arab Lawyers Union official Mohammed Al-Ahadi, arrived in Amman on Thursday from Libya to help in Saddam's defense.

Jordanian Mohammed Rashdan, who heads the defense team,

and the other lawyers are waiting in Amman for assurances for their safety to go to Iraq.

Rashdan was affiliated to Saddam's collapsed Baath Party but represented the former Iraqi regime in several cases. His team includes Washington lawyer Curtis Doebbler and French attorney Emmanuel Ludot. Days after Saddam's Dec. 13 capture, the former Iraqi leader's wife, Sajida

Khairallah Telfah, asked Rashdan to defend her husband, the lawyer said.

Ziad Tariq Aziz, the son of former Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, appointed Rashdan's team on Thursday to defend his father.

At an Arab summit in May, Gadhafi said he was "disgusted" that the 22-member Arab League had not done enough to represent Saddam.

"What's the significance of this Arab gathering?" Gadhafi said before packing up and leaving the summit venue, Tunis. "How can this summit convene while there are two Arab presidents in jail?" Gadhafi was referring to Saddam and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has been held up in his West Bank headquarters for more than two years, besieged by Israeli forces.

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Insurgents fire rockets into central Baghdad

Two Marines killed in Anbar province; Jordan, Yemen offer peacekeeping troops to Iraq

BY DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Guerrillas using a jagged launcher fired rockets on Friday, shaking the capital and hitting two hotel compounds frequented by foreigners, officials and witnesses said.

West of Baghdad, two U.S. Marines were reported killed in action during separate military operations Thursday and Friday in troubled Anbar province, the mili-

tary said. American forces also clashed with insurgents in the northern city of Baiji, killing two and wounding a third.

With the insurgency showing no sign of abating, Jordan and Yemen offered to send troops to help shore up security — albeit with conditions that may prevent those deployments. No Arab nation to date has contributed soldiers to the U.S.-led coalition.

The latest violence in Iraq comes just days after Monday's transfer of sovereignty to the new

interim government, which is slated to hold national elections by January 2005. U.S. and Iraqi officials have acknowledged the insurgency will not be the easy and warm attacks will continue. The U.S. gave no details on its operations in Anbar — a volatile Sunni-dominated province that stretches west toward Iraq's western border. In the northern town of Baiji, five insurgents attacked a U.S. 1st Infantry Division patrol with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, Maj. Neil O'Brien said.

The patrol returned fire, killing one of the attackers and wounding another, he said.

Later Friday, about a dozen insurgents fired on U.S. troops at a police station in Baiji, 120 miles north of the capital. A gunbattle ensued, and soldiers killed one insurgent firing from a nearby rooftop, O'Brien said.

In Baghdad, guerrillas launched at least three separate rocket strikes, but caused little serious damage to the city.

In Amman, Jordan's King Ab-

dullah II announced he was willing to send troops to Iraq if the government requested its help.

Yemen, too, was willing to send peacekeeping troops to Iraq, said Foreign Ministry officials in Sana'a, speaking on condition of anonymity. But the country would only deploy troops if they are under U.N. control.

About 160,000 foreign troops, mostly American, have stood on after the handover under a U.S. Security Council resolution that gives them responsibility for security.

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IN THE WORLD

Police: Bomb plot foiled ahead of NATO summit

By JAMES C. HELICKE

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Police on Friday revealed they found explosives at Istanbul's airport last week — only hours before the arrival of the prime minister and two days before President Bush and other NATO leaders came for an alliance summit.

Police spokesman Ramazan Er said police had defused explosives in a parking garage in Istanbul's airport on June 25 but provided no other details.

Another police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that 14 pounds of trisacetone triperoxide, or TATP, an explosive that has been used by Turkish Marxist groups, was found in a parking garage.

The official said a small Marxist group, MLKP-FESK — which claimed responsibility for an Ankara blast last Thursday outside the hotel where Bush had been scheduled to stay — also was believed to have been involved in the airport plot.

At the time, Turkish officials repeatedly denied news reports that explosives had been found at the airport, an apparent effort to calm tensions before the June 28 NATO summit.

In his weekly news conference

Remote-controlled car bomb leaves 3 dead, 24 hurt

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — A car bomb blast in a bustling street in an eastern Turkish city Friday killed at least three people and injured 24 others, sparking fears of renewed separatist fighting in the country's mainly Kurdish southeast.

The government quickly vowed to keep up its fight against the rebels.

The apparent target of the attack, Hikmet Tan, the governor of the city of Van, was not injured when the remote-controlled bomb went off in a busy shopping area.

He accused autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels, who last month ended a unilateral cease-fire, of carrying out the attack.

The rebels, however, denied any involvement. Militant leftists and Islamic groups are also active in Turkey.

Tan said the casualties were all bystanders, including a 12-year-old child peddling bubble gum on the street.

"Turkey will never tolerate terrorism," said Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul told reporters. Turkey "will always fight terrorism."

The car used in the blast was reduced to a charred and smoldering chunk of metal. Blood could be seen on the street and windows of a nearby building were shattered. The blast burst a pipe on the street which was flooded by water.

The windows of the governor's car were shattered in the blast. Holes could be seen in the side of his luxury car.

Tan said a suspect had been detained and police also said they found another bomb in the area and defused it.

Four Kurdish former lawmakers — Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan and Selim Sadak — who were recently released from prison — condemned Friday's attack. The four were in prison for 10 years after convictions on charges they supported the rebels.

"We condemn this attack, no matter who did it," the four said in a statement.

fore Bush left Istanbul.

Passengers had left the plane when the device exploded.

A bomb also exploded last Thursday on an Istanbul bus killing four people and injuring 14 others, hours after the attack at Bush's hotel.

Security in Istanbul has been of special concern since last year, when four suicide truck bombings blamed on al-Qaida killed more than 60 people.

Friday, however, Er confirmed reports that the bomb had been defused — just hours before Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived at the airport.

The bomb was found in a tire inside the parking garage, newspapers reported. It is unclear if the bomb could have caused damage beyond the garage.

Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, French President

Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder were among the leaders who attended the summit, which took place amid extremely tight security.

The police official said the explosives found at the airport were similar to those used in another small bombing Tuesday that injured three workers cleaning a Turkish Airlines plane, hours be-

Palm reading at banks

TOKYO — A Japanese bank launched a new type of account Friday requiring security-conscious customers to prove their identity by showing the pattern of veins on their palms.

Suruga Bank Ltd. introduced the system because vein patterns on human hands are very difficult to forge, said bank spokeswoman Yoshie Yamaguchi.

Suruga hopes the new measure will prevent illegal cash withdrawals by people posing as account holders.

The new measures apply to customers who specifically open a "Biosecurity Ordinary Deposit Account."

Customers withdrawing cash must hold their palms above a sensor linked to the bank's computer, Yamaguchi said.

These customers will not be able to use ATMs and must show up in person to conduct transactions.

Yamaguchi refused to say how much the system cost or how many customers opened biosecurity accounts Friday.

The minimum deposit required for opening such an account is \$9,260.

According to Japan's banking association, about \$18.3 million was illegally withdrawn from banks in 2003 by people using stolen bank passbooks and other false identification.

From The Associated Press





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Powell talks with North Korean counterpart

Meeting focuses on disarmament

BY GEORGE GEDDA
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Secretary of State Colin Powell told North Korea's top diplomat Friday that he was hopeful international negotiations begun last year could yield "concrete progress" toward nuclear disarmament in the communist state.

In a North Korean statement issued after the meeting, Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun was reported to have said he shares Powell's goal of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. But he rejected a U.S. requirement that his country show a serious commitment to disarmament before it can receive economic benefits from Washington.

Powell and Paek are here for the annual summer meeting of foreign ministers from the Asia-Pacific region. The unannounced, 20-minute U.S.-North Korean encounter was held shortly after 8 a.m. at a local conference center.

Powell and his North Korean colleague had last met in July 2002 in Brunei. Since then, American concerns about North Korea's nuclear intentions have sharply escalated. The North renounced a 1994 nuclear freeze and also was discovered by U.S. intelligence to have secretly embarked on a second nuclear weapons program as supplement to one it publicly acknowledges.

The morning meeting occurred a week after the United States presented a detailed proposal for obtaining a verifiable end to the



Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, left, and Secretary of State Colin Powell meet during a bilateral gathering at the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting Friday in Jakarta, Indonesia, where Powell also met with North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun.

North's nuclear ambitions. It was unveiled at a conference in Beijing, attended by delegates from China, Japan, South Korea and Russia, in addition to the United States and North Korea. It was the third such meeting among the six.

The plan calls for a step-by-step dismantling of North Korea's declared and undeclared nuclear weapons programs. In return, the North would receive aid, with Japanese and South Korean energy assistance provided at a relatively early stage. American assistance would come later.

After the discussion, Powell said a mutual lack of confidence is a difficult problem in the disarmament talks. Speaking to a group of Indonesian young people, he said, "There is a great deal of mistrust between the United States and North Korea."

Powell told reporters later on that the meeting with Paek didn't change much.

"All we did was to reaffirm the positions that both sides took at the six-party talks last week," he said.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Powell outlined the U.S. proposals during his meeting with Paek and told him "there was an opportunity for concrete progress."

The North Korean statement offered a mixed picture of the country's complex relationship with the United States.

It said North Korea "will not regard the United States as a permanent enemy" if Washington seeks improved ties. It also reaffirmed that North Korea's goal is to achieve a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula "peacefully through dialogue."

Paek also told Powell, according to the statement, that North Korea is adhering in the six-nation negotiations to the principle

of "simultaneous actions" by the two sides.

At a Thursday night news conference, Powell rejected the idea of simultaneity, declaring that North Korea must show a credible commitment to disarmament before receiving economic benefits.

As part of an overall settlement, North Korea would receive security guarantees from other participants in the six-party process.

At last week's talks, North Korea offered to freeze its nuclear program in exchange for guarantees of abundant energy supplies to overcome acute shortages. The North Korean statement on Friday alluded to its proposal as "reward for freeze."

There is virtually no chance that the United States will accept a freeze proposal because it contends that the North unilaterally violated a nuclear freeze pledge in 1994 not long after signing it.

Forum urges solution to nuke standoff

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A regional security forum that includes the United States and North Korea on Friday underlined the need for a peaceful solution to the nuclear standoff on the Korean Peninsula.

In a chairman's statement, foreign ministers at the ASEAN Regional Forum said they encouraged efforts to achieve "a peaceful solution through dialogue to denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula."

Also in Jakarta on Friday, South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon met his North Korean counterpart Paek Nam Sun for 50 minutes in the second meeting between the two ministers in as many days.

Minister Ban emphasized the importance of international cooperation and urged Minister Paek to improve ties with the United States and Japan, said Lee Sun-jin, the main policy coordinator of the South Korean Foreign Ministry.

"The United States has no intention of invading North Korea and North Korea must make a bold political decision and make efforts to win American trust," Lee quoted Ban as saying.

Secretary of State Colin Powell met Paek on Friday to discuss the impasse over the North's nuclear weapons development, in the highest-level meeting between the two countries since 2002.

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F-117As denounced

SEOUL — North Korea on Friday denounced the recent arrival of U.S. stealth fighter bombers in neighboring South Korea as a signal that Washington was preparing to invade the North.

A squadron of F-117As arrived earlier this week at Kunsan Air Base south of Seoul. The U.S. military command said they would stay for several months of training exercises.

Rice to visit S. Korea

SEOUL — President Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza

Rice, will visit South Korea next week to discuss strengthening the bilateral alliance with President Roh Moo-hyun, Roh's office said Friday.

Rice, traveling as a special envoy of Bush, will arrive in Seoul next Friday, an official statement said.

Rice also will meet her South Korean counterpart, Kwon Jin-bo, and Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon to discuss the international standoff over communist North Korea's nuclear weapons program and Washington's plan to withdraw one-third of its troops.

From The Associated Press

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PHOTOS BY JOSEPH GORDONO/Stars and Stripes

Above: A South Korean soldier performs a song, with backup dancers, during the "Young Soldiers" entertainment show put on at bases throughout the country. **Top right:** Four South Korean soldiers — competing for leave — had to identify their girlfriends only by their silhouettes during an on-base entertainment show. **Bottom right:** Three lucky soldiers, able to identify their girlfriends by their silhouettes, get hugs during a contest to see who gets a leave pass.



'It lifts the soldiers' spirits and morale'

BY JOSEPH GORDONO

Stars and Stripes

YANGJU, South Korea — It's steadily drizzling on a muggy night full of bloodthirsty mosquitoes, and the TV production assistant is madly clapping his hands above his head, trying to get the audience to follow suit.

And though the hundreds of South Korean soldiers sitting in the first dozen rows oblige, the rest — stretching back in a sea of camouflaged uniforms, sitting on plastic chairs on a muddy military parade ground — sit firmly on their hands.

On an elaborately lit stage, a South Korean pop singer who's dubbed herself the "The Beautiful Rocker" wails into a microphone as smoke billows and pyrotechnics explode.

It's the opening act of "Young Soldiers," a weekly South Korean television program taped over a four-hour period at a different military base each week, then edited down to an hour and shown in prime time on the national KBS network.

It's like a United Service Organizations show at American military bases — if USO shows included soldiers dancing in drag, contests for soldiers to earn their first leave with their girlfriends in over two years, or tearful reunions with ailing parents. The show, a popular staple on South Korean television, has even been brought to U.S. installations where some native Koreans serve as augmentees to American units stationed here.

For the young South Korean soldiers, who serve compulsory stints in a notoriously disciplined army and are restricted to largely Spartan bases, having "Young Soldiers" visit their base is a rare treat.

"Many times, the life of a sol-

'Young Soldiers' production allows South Korean troops to sing, dance and reunite with loved ones

dier can be difficult. However, special events such as this show help create lasting good memories of our time in the service," Cpl. Oh Chang-jae said through an interpreter.

For Oh and the other 2,000 soldiers stationed at Olympic Base — so named because soldiers here once helped with organizing and protecting the 1988 Seoul Olympics — the break is welcome.

"I've been in the service almost four years now. A few years ago, they had a show similar to this at another location. However, I was put on base protection duty and was unable to watch it then," Oh said.

This time, Oh gets a seat about halfway back into the audience. Over the next four hours, he'll watch professional performances mixed in with both serious and goofy talents exhibited by his fellow soldiers.

The first soldier singer, a very earnest-looking young man in black T-shirt and camouflage pants, sings part of a Korean pop song while surrounded by dancers in shimmering gold outfits. Before every soldier performs, they turn to the crowd, snap off a smart salute and shout "Chung-seong!" Translated, it means "loyalty" and is the required salute call and response for the South Korean military.

Around 100 Olympic Base soldiers tried out for spots on the show, producers said, with a few dozen chosen to participate.

Next, a group of soldiers in wigs, camouflage pants and tight, brightly-colored T-shirts dance insanely amid the pyrotechnics to

yet another pop song, finishing off their performance with by unfurling a banner reading "Olympic Base is the Best!"

The crowd goes wild, without any prompting from the television crew. For this show, a team of 40 technicians, cameramen and crowd-handlers has come to the base from the KBS network. They run seven cameras from various angles, controlling everything from a high-tech production van behind the stage.

One of the most popular segments features four soldiers given the chance to earn a few precious hours of leave with their girlfriends. The four girls stand on a smaller stage at the back of a parade grounds, hidden behind paper silhouettes. Each girl does a short dance — "Hey, this isn't a strip club!" yells one of the show's good-natured hosts — and the soldier is supposed to pick his girlfriend from her outline.

Only this time, two soldiers are convinced the same mystery woman, the one behind door No. 4, is theirs. The stakes are high: None of the soldiers have seen their girlfriends in over two years.

Three soldiers turn out to be right; the one who guessed wrong gets to simply say "hi" to his girlfriend on the microphone before she's escorted away. The three girls who are finalists run excitedly through the crowd to hug their boyfriends, but are stopped about halfway down.

The camera wasn't in the right place, so the 24-minute reunion is put off for a few more moments.

A jury of five female officers sits on the stage, charged with de-

ciding which of the three couples should win the prize.

"There are around 10 female soldiers on this base," said one of the officers, who didn't want to give her name. "But the fact that this show is geared toward a male audience doesn't bother us since it is for the enlisted soldiers anyway. There are no enlisted female soldiers on this base."

The show goes on into the night, winding up with a reunion between a soldier and his sick mother. Neither has seen each other in years, and the crowd responds with the appropriate tears.

For the young men conscripted into the South Korean military, there are few luxuries. But for a few hours, when "Young Soldiers" visits their base, they get a chance to unwind.

"Being able to host this show is a great honor, but being able to participate is an even greater experience. It lifts the soldiers' spirits and morale and helps us cope with the sometimes difficult lifestyles of soldiers," said Sgt. Chai Suk-yul, one of the bewigged dancers.

"Sometimes, it's hard being here since there are only guys, but it's nice to know that the community still thinks about us."

Jennifer Kleckner contributed to this report.

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IN THE STATES

'Godfather' actor Brando dead at 80

BY BOB THOMAS

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Marlon Brando, who revolutionized American acting with his Method performances in "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "On the Waterfront" and went on to create the iconic character of Don Vito Corleone in "The Godfather," has died. He was 80.

Brando died at an undisclosed Los Angeles hospital Thursday, attorney David J. Seeley said Friday. The cause of death was being withheld, Seeley said, noting the actor "was a very private man."

Brando, whose unpredictable behavior made him equally fascinating off the screen, was acclaimed the greatest actor of his generation, a two-time winner of the Academy Award who influenced some of the best actors of the generation that followed, among them Al Pacino, Robert De Niro and Jack Nicholson.

"Marlon would hate the idea of people chiming in to give their comments about his death. All I'll say is that it makes me sad he's gone," said Francis Ford Coppola, who directed "The Godfather."

He was the unforgettable embodiment of the brutish Stanley Kowalski of "A Streetcar Named Desire," the mixed up Terry Malloy of "On the Waterfront" (which won him his first Oscar) and the wily Corleone of "The Godfather" (which won him his

second.) But his private life may best be defined by a line from "The Wild One," in which Brando, playing a motorcycle gang leader, is asked what he's rebelling against.

"Whattaya got?" was his famous reply.

His most famous act of rebellion was his refusal in 1973 to accept the best actor Oscar for "The Godfather." Instead, he sent a woman who called herself Sasheen Littlefeather to read a diatribe about Hollywood's treatment of Native Americans.

Brando's private life turned tragic years later with his son's conviction for killing the boyfriend of his half sister, Cheyenne.

Brando, in 1990. Five years later, Cheyenne, 25, committed suicide, still depressed over the killing.

Still, the undying spotlight never made him conform.

"I am myself," he once declared, "and if I have to hit my head against a brick wall to remain true to myself, I will do it."

Starting with the stage version of "A Streetcar Named Desire" and a startling series of screen



Bonaser, portrayed by Frank Puglia, left, asks Don Vito Corleone, portrayed by Marlon Brando, for a favor in a scene from the 1972 movie "The Godfather." Brando, 80, died at a Los Angeles hospital Thursday, his attorney said. The cause of death was being withheld.

portrayals, Brando changed the nature of American acting.

Schooled at the Actors Studio in New York, he created a naturalism that was sometimes derided for its mumbling, grungy attitudes. But audiences were electrified, and a new generation of actors adopted his style.

"He influenced more young actors of my generation than any actor," longtime friend and "Godfather" co-star James Caan said Friday through his publicist. "Anyone who denies this never understood what it was all about."

Born in Omaha, Neb., in 1924, Marlon Brando Jr. grew up a pudgy, mischievous boy called Bud. At 19, he moved to New York and studied acting with Stella Adler. After a week, Adler de-

clared: "Within a year, Marlon Brando will be the best young actor in the American theater."

It took a bit longer. He appeared in such plays as "I Remember Mama," "A Flag Is Born" and "Truckline Cafe" before the Tennessee Williams play that made him famous, "A Streetcar Named Desire" in 1947.

His first marriage was to actress Anna Kashfi in 1957; they separated a year later. In 1960 he married a Mexican actress, Movita, who had appeared in the first "Marty" on the Broadway. They were divorced after he met Tahitian beauty Tarita, and bought an island, Tetiarua. All three wives were pregnant when he married them. He had nine children.

Details about funeral plans weren't disclosed.

FBI puts out holiday alert

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A constant stream of intelligence indicating that al-Qaida wants to strike the United States this summer or autumn has led federal officials to urge increased vigilance for the United States this Independence Day weekend, but there is no specific threat of an attack timed to the holiday.

In a bulletin sent to law enforcement agencies nationwide Thursday, the FBI said police should step up patrols and watch for signs of terrorist activity, including surveillance of potential targets.

"We know the FBI also listed advice on how to spot possible suicide bombers."

The U.S. homeland remains a top al-Qaida target, the FBI said in the bulletin, sent weekly to 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies.

Fourth of July celebrations are among the symbolic events that U.S. officials say could present an inviting target to al-Qaida, which intelligence reports indicate will attempt an attack during summer or fall. An attack also could be timed to coincide with the national political conventions or the November elections, plus the Olympics in August in Athens, Greece.

See
Fourth
of July
stories
on
Pages
14-15



Brando

Cosby again demands blacks be accountable

BY JAMAL WATSON
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Despite a storm of criticism, Bill Cosby's unwavering call for blacks to take responsibility for their actions has not changed.

In fact, his talk Thursday at the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition's annual conference in Chicago was every bit as forceful as a speech he gave in May in Washington that drew protests from across the nation.

"This is the time, ladies and gentlemen, when we have to turn the mirror around and look at ourselves," said Cosby, whose tough talk at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers was greeted with applause and cheers. "We need to stop this. We cannot protect ourselves if the picture of ourselves is in a trough."

He told the activists that black children are running around not knowing how to read or write and "going nowhere." He also had harsh words for struggling black men, telling them: "Stop beating up your women because you can't find a job."

Most of the 1,000 participants

who crowded into a conference room for breakfast and a panel discussion seemed to welcome the message.

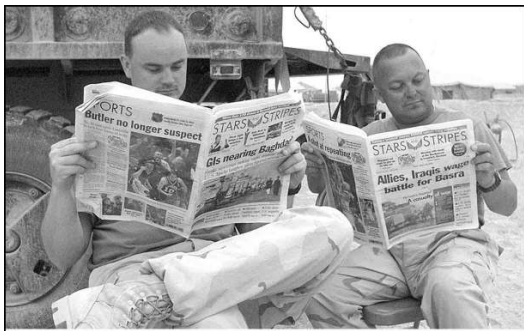
To them, Cosby was just telling the truth. Some said they didn't understand the brouhaha that surfaced after comments Cosby made in May at a gala marking the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Education decision. There, he said black families should take more responsibility for their education, transmitting strong morals and planning for the future.

"I don't know why that's seen as controversial," said Rasheed Wilson, 17, of Chicago. "I actually thought what he was saying was inspiring. He's talking about improving our community."

But Tonya Bell, 36, of Chicago said Cosby, 66, is out of touch with the plight of non-African-Americans. The single mother of two teenage boys said she had read accounts of Cosby's statements but came to Thursday's talk to hear him in person.

"I don't think he understands how hard it is out here," she said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



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U.S. Supreme Court wraps up 2004 session

Term leaves conservatives with little to celebrate

BY GINA HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Justice Antonin Scalia ended the Supreme Court term with some harsh words for his colleagues.

"This court seems incapable of admitting that some matters — any matters — are none of its business," he wrote on the court's final day.

Only fellow conservative Clarence Thomas wrote more dissents than Scalia in the nine-month term that ended this week. In the final days, Scalia complained about a misguided court that "seems to view it as its mission to Make Everything Come Out Right," even with wrong rulings.

In some of his sharpest criticism, Scalia called the court irresponsible in ruling that foreign terror suspects held in Cuba may challenge their treatment in U.S. courts.

It was one in a line of decisions by the justices this year that found American courts open to lawsuits over such things as international human rights abuses, on-the-job sexual harassment, World War II-era disputes over looted property, claims that states aren't accommodating disabled citizens and allegations of unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering in legislative boundary drawing.

Justices also said that U.S. courts and their protections were available to Americans accused by the president of being enemy combatants, another defeat for the Bush administration.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who has generally steered a conservative course for the court, settled for a more moderate year.

"I can't think of a major conservative victory," said John McGinnis, a conservative law professor at Northwestern University. "They may be running out of steam."

Several potential blockbuster cases sputtered, including cases involving religion. Justices ruled narrowly, in a Rehnquist opinion, that states don't have to underwrite the religious training of students planning careers in the ministry. Stevens crafted a ruling that dodged a decision on whether the Pledge of Allegiance and its reference to God in public schools is constitutional. The court found that a California atheist could not challenge the patriotic oath because he did not have legal authority to speak for his 10-year-old daughter.

The justices backed off another case about White House secrecy, leaving for another day the question of whether Vice President Dick Cheney must reveal the inner workings of his energy task force.

In some instances, the court showed it does not have all the answers. In others, it seemed to say the court will get back to us later, said Washington lawyer Thomas Goldstein.

In the terrorism cases especially, "what they said is significant, but it's not the whole story. It's like giving people one chapter of a book at a time," Goldstein said.

Some of the key decisions this term

The Associated Press

Some of the Supreme Court's key decisions in the 2004 term: **GUANTANAMO BAY** — Ruled 6-3 that 600 foreign-born terror suspects captured abroad and held at a Navy-run prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have a right to challenge their detention in U.S. courts.

U.S. ENEMY COMBATANTS — Ruled 8-1 that the Bush administration could not indefinitely de-

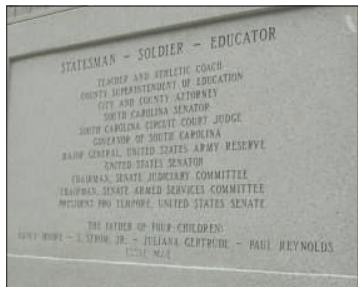
tain as an enemy combatant with no legal rights Yaser Esam Hamdi, a U.S. citizen seized on the Afghanistan battlefield in 2001. In a second case the court decided 5-4 that accused enemy combatant Jose Padilla should have filed his appeal in federal court in Charleston, S.C., because he is being held at a Navy brig there, rather than in New York.

RELIGION — Decided 7-2 that states don't have to under-

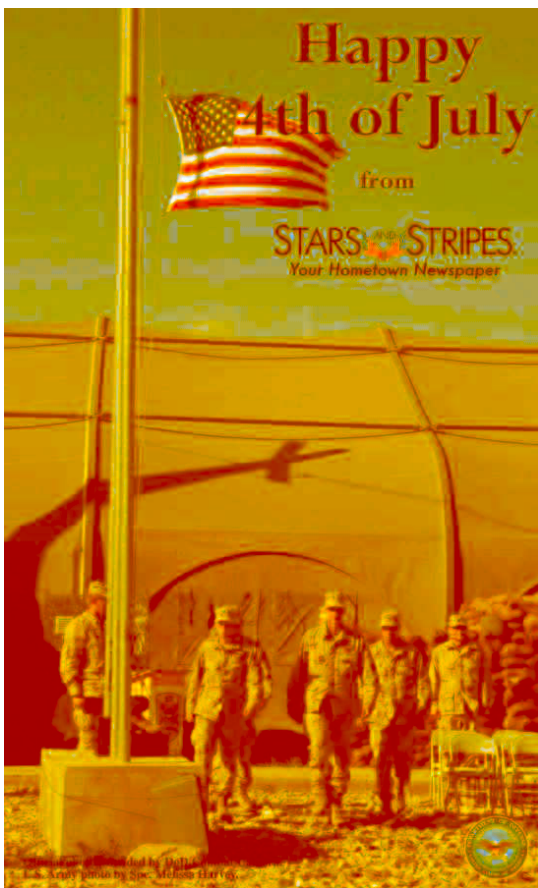
write the religious training of students planning careers in the ministry, a departure from allowing more government support for religion.

DISABILITIES RIGHTS — Decided on a 5-4 vote that disabled people can sue if states ignore a landmark civil rights law that protects their rights, in the case of a paraplegic man who crawled up the steps of a courthouse because there was no elevator for his wheelchair.

A daughter acknowledged



The name of Strom Thurmond's biracial daughter is shown added to his monument on the South Carolina Statehouse grounds in Columbia on Thursday. It took two hours to engrave "Essie Mae" on the monument. It was placed on its own line, under the names of the late senator's four children with his second wife, Nancy. Essie Mae Washington Williams knew Thurmond was her father for decades but kept silent until after his death out of respect for the former senator's career. Thurmond was 22 when Williams, now 78, was born to a 16-year-old black maid in his family's Edgefield home.





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So you think you know the Fourth of July?

BY ERIN WALSH

Special to the Stamford Advocate

In between the barbecues and the fireworks, take some time to test your knowledge with our Fourth of July quiz. Find the answers on Page 15.

1. Although the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, the actual vote was taken on July 2. Which colony abstained from that vote?

- A. Connecticut
- B. Massachusetts
- C. New York
- D. Delaware

2. In what year was the last signature — Thomas McKean's — put on the declaration?

- A. 1776
- B. 1777
- C. 1780
- D. 1800

3. The Declaration of Independence was signed by the Second Continental Congress in:

- A. New York
- B. Boston
- C. Hartford
- D. Philadelphia

4. The Declaration of Independence accused the King of England of, among other things, being a tyrant. Who was the King?

- A. Henry VIII
- B. William II
- C. George III
- D. George I

5. Where did fireworks originate?

- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. China
- D. Brazil

6. The celebration of Independence Day was originally modeled on that of:

- A. The King's Birthday
- B. Chinese New Year
- C. St. Patrick's Day
- D. Christmas

7. Match Second Continental Congress delegate to home state:

Delegates:

- A. Roger Sherman
- B. Benjamin Franklin
- C. William Ellery
- D. Josiah Bartlett
- E. Benjamin Harrison
- F. Burton Ginnett

States:

- a. New Hampshire
- b. Georgia
- c. Virginia
- d. Connecticut
- e. Rhode Island
- f. Pennsylvania

Other famous July Fourths

8. On July 4, 1591, the oppressive laws by which the Huguenots or Protestants were being persecuted were revoked by an edict of Henry IV of:

- A. England
- B. Russia
- C. France
- D. Egypt



Zachary Helm, 3, waves a U.S. flag high as he says "Happy birthday, America" while taking part in the My Little People Day Care Center's Independence Day parade on Thursday evening near Elizabethtown, Ky.

9. On July 4, 1826, two former presidents died: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. What else did they have in common:

- A. They were both from North Carolina.
- B. They were both signers of the Decla-

tion of Independence

- C. They both had wives named Abigail
- D. They both attended Harvard

10. On July 4, 1828, the cornerstone of the first railroad in America was laid. It was called:

- A. Baltimore and Ohio
- B. Short Line
- C. Missouri Pacific
- D. Pennsylvania

11. On July 4, 1831, the third former president to die on July 4 passed away. He was:

- A. James Monroe
- B. James Madison
- C. Andrew Jackson
- D. Richard Nixon

12. On July 4, 1880, which country presented the United States with The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World?

- A. England
- B. Spain
- C. Greece
- D. France

13. The town of Vicksburg, Miss., would not celebrate Independence Day for 81 years because on July 4, 1863, this Confederate General surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Vicksburg:

- A. Sherman
- B. Lee
- C. Pemberton
- D. Patton

Sources — The Encyclopedia Britannica Online, www.historychannel.com, and Famous Fourth, from Leslie's Weekly as reprinted in The Advocate June 17, 1904. Check your answers on Page 15.

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Americans raise their voices in patriotic song

BY SEAN PICCOLI
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Living in America means a steady diet of songs about America, a select few of which we memorize at school auditoriums or with hand on heart at the ballpark, and pass down through repetition.

The rest, tributes and critiques alike, reach us through less civic channels.

But many of these popular songs aim to be as enduring as any of the big five: "The Star-Spangled Banner," "America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)," "America the Beautiful," "God Bless America" and "This Land Is Your Land."

The list of the nation's would-be pop laureates runs to dozens, if not hundreds, just counting from the middle of the 20th century onward.

The impulse to capture America's effects, or afflicts, performers of all kinds. It unites Lee Greenwood ("God Bless the USA") and Public Enemy ("Fight the Power"), Neil Diamond ("America"), and Toby Keith ("American Soldier"), Elvis Presley ("An American Trilogy") and Rage

Against the Machine ("Sleep Now in the Fire").

British rocker Morrissey, who lives in Los Angeles, opens his new album with an expat's ambivalent nod, "America Is Not the World."

"Your belly's too big," he coos to his adopted homeland. "And I love you," he finally admits. The problem is, the song tries so hard to be resounding, with its first-person oratory and arena production values, it belly-flops off the pulpit. Someone should write a rebuttal called "Morrissey Is Not a Nation of Immigrants."

For every "Born in the U.S.A.," it turns out, there are scores of misfiring sales. Great intent is not enough. But Morrissey, to his credit, finds a more effective way to write about America: He grabs a smaller piece of the pie.

Also on his new album, "You Are the Quarry," is "First of the Gang to Die." It's a tip of the hat to the gritty Hispanic world of early East Los Angeles, which, against all sociological expectation, has adopted the morose Brit as an icon.

First comes a doomed young Latino whose brief life embodies



The Statue of Liberty is reflected in sunglasses worn by Jason Wilson of Bellefontaine, Ohio, as he visits Liberty Island in Jersey City, N.J. An elaborate Fourth of July fireworks display near the Statue of Liberty will herald the reopening later this summer of the statue's six-story pedestal to the public for the first time since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Because he was returning home on July 3, Wilson thought he was just missing the opening, which he, like many others, mistakenly believed was on the Fourth of July.

a romanticized view of violence — a quintessentially American type.

By not writing or singing it as if he were standing atop Mount Rushmore, Morrissey calls down more American mythology, history, texture and experience than he could have fit into 10 "Dear Country" open letters.

So stick that on your Fourth of July party mix, and consider it a guide to finding other America-worthy songs.

These can be anecdotal or symbolic. They can talk about love, money, politics, places or customs. They don't need to have "America" in the title.

By this standard, Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi" is as American as John Mellencamp's "Pink Houses." The Mellencamp song is a model of engaging directness in its clean strumming, snare-drum snap and wistful lyrics. It makes you proud to be from here. But so does the Canadi-

an-born Mitchell's perils-of-progress plaint. Her song's bustling humor suggests what Mellencamp spells out: "Ain't that America."

But look beyond the indisputable greats: There are lesser-known songs that celebrate the country as robustly as the old standbys, well-known songs that evoke America without naming it, and songs that show a more complex America, one that doesn't easily condense down to bumper stickers.

Music marks nation's birthday

BY LAWRENCE A. JOHNSON
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

On Sunday, across the fruited plain, Americans will sit under summer skies, munching fried chicken while listening to orchestras perform traditional Fourth of July fare.

From the Boston Pops' concert on the banks of the Charles River to the Grant Park Orchestra's fireworks spectacular over Lake Michigan to the Hollywood Bowl, audiences will be serenaded by patriotic American music.

Of course, the staples will be trotted out: The national anthem, John Philip Sousa's stirring "Stars and Stripes Forever," and Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

Yet increasingly, the Independence Day musical feast is spiced by John Williams' film scores, Broadway material and other manifestations of pop culture.

When American composers set out to write a "patriotic" work or something to mark a grand occasion, especially with a speaker declaiming a historic text, the results are usually numbing. Even "Lincoln Portrait," the most often

heard of these holiday-friendly works, is far from top-shelf Copland. Other sections include:

■ "Overture to Candide," Leonard Bernstein: Though the adaptation of Voltaire has little, at least on the surface, to do with national themes, the music is American and, more specifically, New York, through and through. In a tight 4½ minutes, Bernstein distills a bracing portrait of the great city in all its brash vitality.

■ "Symphony No. 3," Aaron Copland: Often regarded as the "great American symphony," this large-scale piece is undeniably effective and stirring in its craggy grandeur and populist inspiration. The latter is made clear in the composer's use of his "Fanfare for the Common Man."

■ Appalachian Spring, Copland: This ballet captured more of the national qualities in intimate expression rather than grandiose statement, as in the "Third Symphony." In addition to the "Shaker Tunes" and open prairie feel in those widely spaced chords, there is a sense of foreboding and loneliness, even isolation deep in the na-

tional fabric that is effectively distilled here.

■ "Symphony No. 4," Walter Piston: The rugged, searching eloquence of the "Symphony No. 4" is undeniably homegrown, with its related "Main Street" opening as the rhythmic ingenuity and humor of the "Ballade" movement.

■ "Symphony No. 2," David Diamond: Like Piston, the scandalously neglected Diamond represents, almost inadvertently, a national voice.

For a less tub-thumping response to war, one could hardly do better than the composer's Second Symphony. The elegiac expression and desolation inexorably moves into fragile lyricism and, ultimately, a stoic resolve that is deeply moving.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. C, the New York delegation lacked permission to act.
2. B, 3. D, 4. C, 5. C, 6. A, 7. A, 8. C, 9. B, 10. A, 11. A, 12. D, 13. C

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Repeat drunken drivers out of luck in Va.

BY JUSTIN BERGMAN

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Just months after he was released from prison for involuntary manslaughter, Shawn P. Teehan was again behind the wheel of a car and drunk.

The family of Robin Gustafson, the woman killed when Teehan ran a red light and plowed into her car, was outraged. He had served four years of an eight-year sentence and yet was back on the road.

With the enactment Thursday of 25 new DUI laws that make Virginia among the harshest DUI punishers in the nation, Gustafson's family hopes other motorists might be spared the pain they have endured since the death of their 32-year-old daughter.

"We all say that people make mistakes, but if that mistake is overlooked, people don't learn from it," Gustafson's father, Bob Walsh, said at a bill-signing ceremony in May. "People are being told that if they continue to disobey the laws, the penalty is going to be severe."

The new laws ratchet up penalties for severely drunken drivers and repeat offenders, who make up a third of all drivers arrested or convicted of drunken driving, according to statistics.

The measures increase mandatory prison sentences for repeat offenders, lower the blood-alcohol level needed to incarcerate first-time offenders and allow the state to seize a person's car following a third DUI conviction in 10 years.

Bail will be denied for drunken drivers with three DUI offenses in the past five years, and police will be able to charge a person for refusing to take a blood or breath test. Police will also be able to arrest a person for drunken driving without a warrant and at any location within three hours of a crash.

Two years ago, Mothers Against Drunk Driving gave the state a grade of D-plus for the strength of its drunken driving laws. Now the group is applauding Virginia's efforts to tighten its laws.

Wendy Hamilton, the national president of MADD, said Virginia will be one of a handful of states to make it a misdemeanor for a person driving on a restricted permit from a previous DUI conviction to be caught driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.02 or more, which is far lower than the 0.08 legal limit in Virginia and most states.

"That's zero tolerance," she said. "Virginia has taken the lead on this."

Kurt Erickson, head of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program, said the new law requiring a six-month jail sentence for anyone convicted of three DUI offenses within five years also puts the state out front.

"Virginia has gotten exceedingly tough," he said. "With regard to repeat drunken drivers, they're doing things other states are likely to avoid from doing."

The impetus for the new laws came after alcohol-related traffic deaths started rising again in Virginia after decreasing steadily through the 1980s.

In the case of Gustafson, state records showed that Teehan, 32, was convicted of driving under the influence in January 2001, only five months after he was released from prison.

According to court records, Teehan had been convicted of DUI twice before his car broadsided Gustafson's car. After four years, he was released on good behavior.

His penalty for the newest drunken-driving conviction: a suspended jail sentence, a \$500 fine, a one-year driver's license suspension, and an order to attend a safety education program. Gustafson's parents took Teehan to court and he is now serving the remainder of his sentence.



Shawn P. Teehan

More than 70 separate bills regarding DUI enforcement and punishment were introduced this year to ensure cases like Teehan never happened again, causing legislators to hold a special Sunday session to debate all the proposals.

The car forfeiture bill prompted the most debate in the House, narrowly passing the House after opponents said it could unfairly hurt offenders' family members who need the car to drive to work or school.

Twenty-six other states have a similar law.

Del. lowers BAC limit

DOVER, Del. — Unifying the threshold for what's considered drunken driving across the nation, Delaware lawmakers early Thursday agreed to lower the state's legal limit for motorists' blood-alcohol levels from 0.10 to 0.08 percent.

Delaware was the sole hold-out to stiffen its drunken driving law. The governors of Colorado and Minnesota signed 0.08 legislation in their states in May.

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, who has made the issue a priority since she took office three years ago, expected to sign the measure next week, said spokesman Greg Patterson.

The action also means Delaware will avoid losing millions of dollars in federal highway funds.

The Senate voted 20-1 to approve the lower threshold, but only after amending a House version to allow first offenders convicted with a blood-alcohol level below 0.08 to receive a conditional driver's license immediately and avoid mandatory alcohol education.

— The Associated Press

Teacher's looks add spice to sex scandal

BY SHANNON COLAVECCHIO-VAN SICKLER
St. Petersburg Times

MSNBC's Scarborough Country aired a segment this week about the 23-year-old teacher accused of having sex with a 14-year-old student.

Radio host Howard Stern declared that Debra Bessley Lafave should be thanked, not jailed, for making every schoolboy's fantasy come true.

Lafave, charged with four counts of lewd and lascivious acts against a minor and one count of lewd and lascivious exhibition, is not the first teacher accused of having sex with a student.

But the combination of her striking model-like appearance, the oddity of a woman being accused of predatory behavior with a boy and the lurid details of the charges against Lafave have made the newlywed the fodder of talk shows nationwide.

"Would we be talking as much if she were 200 pounds and unattractive?" said defense attorney Norman Cannella in Tampa, Fla. "Probably not."

School district and law enforcement officials, as well as Lafave's attorney, have fielded dozens of interview requests from media heavyweights such as Matt Lauer, Larry King and Gretna Van Susteren.



Florida middle school teacher Debra Bessley Lafave is accused of having sex with a 14-year-old student. Lafave's model-like appearance has helped the case earn national attention.

"It has been a rather hectic past two days," said John Fitzgibbons, Lafave's attorney.

Jim Rome, host of a nationally syndicated sports radio show, told listeners this week that the teen will be "the most popular kid" in school.

Mark Hart, spokesman for the Hillsborough County school district that includes Lafave's school, Greco Middle School, said that kind of attitude is unfortunate.

"They say 'boys will be boys,' but this one is very troubling," Hart said. "I would like to see the street talk about this stop — this idea that if you were the mother of the child you'd be horrified, but if you were the dad, you'd be patting him on the back."

"That's degrading to women," he said, "and it minimizes the severity of these allegations."



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RELIGION

Holy witticisms turn heads, inspire books

BY DAN NEPPIN
The Associated Press

DORMONT, Pa. — With witticisms such as "The best vitamin for a Christian is B-1" and "God answers knee-mail," church marquee messages are often witty enough to give one pause and, many a pastor or minister would hope, to inspire people to venture inside.

The messages have filled a half-dozen books, and favorites are widely circulated on the Internet. A Texas man even developed a computerized "church sign generator" that allows people to create their own sayings on a simulated marquee.

Jack Frank, a member of the Dormont United Methodist Church in suburban Pittsburgh, has been posting messages since the church bought a changeable sign to replace a bronze and copper one that had been stolen.

Frank, who gets ideas from friends and through e-mails, tries to change the sign every couple of



Jack Frank, a member of the Dormont United Methodist Church in Dormont, Pa., talks about the sign he has been tending for several years. Frank gets ideas for the messages from friends and e-mails.

weeks. "It's not unusual when you're changing a sign that people give you ideas," he said.

L. James Harvey of Grand Rapids, Mich., has had two books published on the signs and sees them

as a way to reach out to potential congregants.

"I like to have churches envision that they have drive-by congregations," he said.

He decided the messages were worth a book when the church he was attending in Maryland got a new sign about six years ago. Finding no ready source of material, he began compiling his own list, culled from other church signs and the Bible.

"The sign became very successful in that it brought people into the church who had never been there," he said.

While one goal is filling pews, Randy Friedman, pastor of the North Chester Baptist Church in Chester, has another purpose in mind.

"We tried to put some sayings up there that will cause a person to think and ask some questions," he said.

Mary Katherine Compton, a Goldsboro, N.C., native living in County Kork, Ireland, has written two books with her husband, David Compton. She's noticed an

increasing number of signs during her visits to America.

Last year, the J.M. Stewart Corp., a maker of church signs from Sarasota, Fla., had its best year ever and expects sales to be up again in 2004, said Tim Self, the marketing manager.

The Comptons began noticing the prevalence of signs while visiting in the South in the late 1990s. After finding no books on the subject, they put together their own.

Mary Katherine Compton's favorites are captured in the titles of her books: "Forbidden Fruit Creates: Many Jams: Roadside Church Signs Across America" and "Life Is Short, Pray Hard: Forbidden Fruit II: More Roadside Church Signs Across America."

Deborah Davies, of Greenville, Texas, wrote "The Proverbial Marquee: Words to Drive By," with a friend.

"A minister will spend hours preparing a sermon that will reach a few hundred people ... so whatever time it will take to change that message (on the sign) is worth it," she said.



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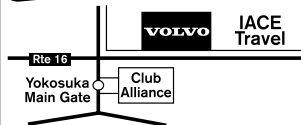
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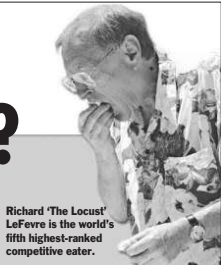


S60

Grotesque sideshow or competitive sport?

How eating competitions became big-time

Rich 'The Locust' LeFevre is the world's fifth highest-ranked competitive eater.



By PAULINE ARRILLAGA

The Associated Press

The woman's contorted expression reveals something between skepticism and pure revulsion, but the president of the International Federation of Competitive Eating is undaunted.

In fact, Rich Shea is quite accustomed to this reaction — and understandably so.

It is the night before the 2004 World Oyster Eating Championship, and Shea is enthusiastically doing what he does best — hyping one of his up-and-coming "athletes" in what he considers the signature sport of the 21st century.

His audience: the wife of the marketing director for Acme Oyster House — a buff, beautiful gym goddess who, at this moment, is resolved to eat only a fraction of her hamburger.

His subject: Sonya Thomas, a 105-pound Burger King manager who is, as Shea spins it, the "fastest-rising star in competitive eating." To prove his point, Shea rattles off a statistic: Tiny Thomas consumed 65 hard-boiled eggs in six minutes, 40 seconds to set a world record in, well, hard-boiled egg eating.

Shea, 35, is one half the brains behind — or to blame for — the IPOCE. He and his brother, George, 39, established the so-called governing body of all stomach-centric sports in 1997 and have since turned a pastime once reserved for fairs and frat parties into a national craze with a growing following.

Just how big has competitive eating gotten? On the Fourth of July, at the Super Bowl of Scarfing, ESPN plans to go live — from New York's Coney Island, for a one-hour broadcast of the annual Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest.

All the top dogs of the competitive eating circuit will be there, including the highest-ranked eaters in the world:

No. 5, Rich "The Locust" LeFevre, 60, a retired accountant who holds records in Spain, corn dogs and chili.

No. 4, Eric "Badlands" Booker, 35, a subway conductor and expert in burritos, corned-beef hash, doughnuts, matzo balls, peas, even *hamentaschen* (traditional Purim pastries).

No. 3, Ed "Cookie" Jarvis, 38, a real estate agent and consumer of cannoli, chicken fingers and corn-on-the-cob.

No. 2, Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas, 36, the rookie — tops in everything from asparagus and fruitcake to tacos, turducken (turkey stuffed with duck stuffed with chicken) and, of course, eggs.

And No. 1, Takern "The Tsunami" Kobayashi of Japan, 25, the 155-pound Michael Jordan of his craft seeking an unprecedented fourth-straight victory at the hot dog eat-off, where he broke a record-busting 50% franks and buns in 12 minutes in 2002.

As always, the Shea brothers will also be on hand — Rich commenting, George acting as master of ceremonies — providing play-by-play of the grubfest and marveling at their own astounding achievement.

To meet the Shea brothers, to behold the eye glints and the smirks they suppress when speaking about The Next Big Thing In Sports, you can imagine how it might have all started. A bar. Beer. A bunch of buddies. And a passing remark: "Know what would be GREEEEAAAT?"

The truth isn't so far off. Try a Manhattan steakhouse over sirloin, shrimp and a couple bottles of cabernet with a New York Post reporter and two former hot dog champions. There, in 1997, the IPOCE was born — complete with rules, rankings and rivalries.

George, a public-relations man had just opened his own firm, Shea Communications. Rich, who was in advertising, went to work with him.

several U.S. cities to lure America's top gurgitators to the table on Independence Day.

But it occurred to the Sheas and their cabernet-quaffing friends: Why limit this endeavor to Nathan's? To New York? Indeed, to hot dogs? With eating contests universal at fairs and festivals; with every town, city and state working to promote a featured fare — the possibilities were endless.

Last year, the IPOCE put on some 40 contests of conspicuous consumption — among them the Crawfish Eating Championships in Baton Rouge, La.; the Sweet Corn Fiesta in West Palm Beach, Fla.; and the first World Corny Dog Eating Championship at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas.

Sponsors enlist the IPOCE to organize and publicize the contest, provide an

decadent. Wasteful. It's calling attention to a body function that should be limited, that should be convivial, that should represent positive qualities — family, friends, pleasure.

It also has the potential for danger, something the Sheas acknowledge by keeping an EMT on hand at contests, though they say there've been no emergencies.

"There are real records. There are real disciplines. There are real histories and pedigrees," George Shea retorts.

And there are real competitors — many involved in eating contests long before the Sheas came along.

And what do they get for their efforts? A few contests have purses. . . . Most maintain they do it for, ahem, love of the sport.

"It's mostly for the free food and the good times," says Crazy Legs Conti. "We don't get a paycheck, but we get a full stomach."

There is notoriety, too — interviews with Donny and Marie or Jay Leno, spots on CNN and the "Today" show.

The one thing this rage also has is fans, and even new contest draws in more.

Rich Shea paces the stage at the New Orleans French Quarter Festival, barking introductions into a microphone. Hundreds of onlookers pack the pavement — both first-timers and veteran observers of the oyster extravaganza.

Faith Weidenhaft, who works nearby, carved out time to catch the event after seeing it last year.

"They have to eat with a fork. They can't touch it with their hands. And they don't get sick afterward!" the 53-year-old enthusiast.

Earlier, as Shea chronicled the eaters' many accomplishments, the audience seemed more inclined toward disgust. Grunts of "Ugh" and "Ewww!" rose from the crowd.

But now it's show time.

One by one, the contestants race to the table and take forks firmly in hands. Crazy Legs is there. Badlands, too. And, as Shea declares in a guttural howl, "Sonya! The Black Widowoooooooooooooossss! Thomas!!!"

Then it begins: a spastic canon of forks and oysters coming and going. Numeric charts behind the contestants track their progress.

Eyes that rolled now bulge in amazement. Video cameras peek out over cranial necks. "Ugh!" is suddenly "Wow!" "I can't see!" one spectator shouts.

Then the chant begins: "Sonya! Sonya! Sonya!"

The crowd is witnessing history. For when all is said and swallowed, The Black Widow adds another notch to her astonishingly tiny belt — eating 36 dozen oysters in 10 minutes. "I double the previous record."

Afterward, fans line up for autographs and pictures.

"Unreal," one stammerer. "How can you not be impressed?" remarks another.

Rich Shea has already fielded a phone call from Time magazine.

Soon he'll report the results to his brother, just one more conquest for the IPOCE record books. For now he stands to the side, grinning from ear to ear — triumphant, and he hasn't eaten a thing.



AP photo

Sonya Thomas, center, the ultimate winner, competes in the 2004 World Oyster Eating Championship at the French Quarter Festival in April in New Orleans, as judges look over her shoulders. Thomas is one of the favorites in the annual Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest at Coney Island in New York on July 4.

Among their clients: Nathan's Famous. Since 1991, George had been promoting the annual hot dog contest that became a fixture on Coney Island in 1916, the year Nathan's opened on Surf Avenue.

"We used to do it for maybe two TV cameras, two still cameras and a crowd of 30," George recalls.

Then, in 1993, Nathan's went international, holding a hot dog contest in Japan. Later that year, TV Tokyo dispatched a Japanese eater to America to take on the reigning Nathan's champ, The American won, and around that time the bejeweled Mustard Yellow International Belt — the World Cup of competitive eating — made its appearance.

Japan sent more eaters to New York to bring the belt home, and a rivalry erupted. So did the competitive eating craze.

In 1997, Nathan's launched eat-offs in

emcee (often either George or Rich) and supply participants from a pool of 350 "professional" eaters it has under contract.

"The main thing that we wanted was to start a tradition, kind of like they've done at Coney Island — only with the corny dog," says Mitchell Gieber of the Texas fair, which came on board after the IPOCE pitched the idea.

This year, the Sheas expect to produce more than 70 contests — including the first "Swelin' With Melon" watermelon derby at the community picnic in Brookville, Ohio, population 5,289.

The exploit is not without critics, those who go beyond "chill" for everything wrong with America — nausence, consumerism, exhibitionism, excess.

"It's the fall of Rome, my dear," sniffs food historian Barbara Haber. "Incredibly

Sunday Horoscope

This Independence Day, Mercury, the planet of communication and travel, has begun an excursion of his own through the creative realm of Leo. This energy is channeled through top-notch performances of all kinds. Immediately, communication takes on full flair—expect some high-tech and big-guy-in-the-freaky-displays, too!

Joyce Jillson

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 4). Be sure you're spending the bulk of your time this year doing what you truly love! Energy is abundant when that's the case. Business hours when you take family advice or include family in some way. Your romantic life has many twists and turns through the fall, making the right relationship much closer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're the hub of the activities, as you know how to celebrate in a way that attracts a crowd. Networking on downtime gets you ahead; just be sure to find something genuinely interesting in others instead of pushing your own cause.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though you're truly independent, you're also wise enough to realize some of the rules were written to protect you, and you're foolish not to follow them. Lots of creative fun is in store if you make it your priority.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Finally, your pride and joy, but at the same time, it is driving you crazy. Temper time together with time apart, and you'll remain sane. Know you're in the mood to play and be as free as a child.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A solo mission this morning is an adventure—you'll be relaying the story to your family and friends later. Love relationships thrive if you are prepared to make a few course corrections along the way. Remain flexible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Chemistry is critical to your relationships now, love and otherwise. If it's not clicking, there could be an elemental incompatibility. But when it's right, you feel like together you can rule the world. Enjoy fireworks with a

sweetheart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Optimistic stars help you see the bright side, which outshines the rest. Try the clever idea that comes to mind. Hunches lead to extraordinary results. No matter how long it lasts, a romantic involvement is worth the experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You take things seriously since feeling like a follower only limits your energy. Your special talent or service is much appreciated by everyone who is privileged enough to enjoy it. Be conscious of unspoken obligations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Loved ones want so much to please you.

Little things mean more because you are super-aware. When you pay close attention, you can predict the future. You're the safety monitor in your group and the designated driver, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is no shortage of ideas about how to have fun. Challenge conventional attitudes—your fresh thoughts are needed. You shine in the eyes of family and friends. Now, what must you do to impress your own?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in an unusually dreamy mood. If you've been wondering endlessly where a relationship is going, you may keep on wondering unless you summon up the courage to ask. First impressions are reliable, let instinct rule.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Most of the day is spent preparing for festive occasions and cleaning up the subsequent mess. Make sleep a priority, and you have more energy and stamina. If there is a legitimate short cut, you will find it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Best intentions between friends are not enough. Action and follow-through count.

You don't have to do a thing in romantic matters—everything comes to you. Heads turn when you make an entrance at a popular hot spot.

Creators Syndicate

Putting it in the pudding test

Although I understand the gist of it, what exactly is the meaning and purpose of the expression "the proof is in the pudding"?

"The proof is in the pudding" is actually a shortened version of a very old proverb, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating." It means that the real worth or success or effectiveness of something can only be determined by putting it to the test, appearances and promises aren't just as the best test of a pudding is to eat it.

Sometimes the saying is reduced even further to simply a noun phrase, "proof of the pudding" or "the proof in the pudding." Then it is used to mean "confirmation" or "real test," as in "the proof of the pudding is in how you gets hurt." In fact, the shortened versions are used much more frequently nowadays than the long proverb with the "eating" phrase.

There are sources that say the maxim goes back in English to the 14th century. Though unsubstantiated, the claim is not without plausibility. But back then no one was talking about the kind of sweet "pudding" confections we now get. Fourteenth century puddings were, essentially, were sausages—mixtures of meat, cereal, spices, and even blood, stuffed into intestines or stomachs, and boiled.

If you're wondering "why pudding?" it's useful to know that puddings were held in much higher esteem at one time, so much so that there was another old saying that went, in part, "if a woman knows how to make a pudding... she knows how to run a household." Hands back then then expected at least one pudding a day on the table.

This column was prepared by the author of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Online, P.O. Box 28, Springfield, Mass. 01102.

As we celebrate independence, don't forget troops still fighting

Dear Readers: Today marks the 228th year since the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The resolution for the Declaration was introduced June 7, 1776, by Richard Henry Lee.

Do you know who seconded the motion? John Adams—who would later become our second U.S. president. Any idea how many states he was president of? (I confess, I had to call the public library to find out.) There were only 16 when John Adams took office.

Do you know who wrote our Declaration of Independence? A committee of five. Thomas Jefferson is credited with writing most of it, assisted by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert R. Livingston and Roger Sherman.

And was it enthusiastically adopted? Heck, no! The Congress "suggested" a number of changes—and you can imagine how poor Jefferson felt about that. (About the same as any author who has to report to an editor.) Do you care to know how many changes were made by the "twinklers"? Eighty-six. (It makes one wonder if that's

where the term "eighty-sixed"—slang for someone or something ejected or rejected—originated.) The Lee-Adams Resolution of Independence was adopted on July 2, 1776. The Declaration, which gives the details of the resolution, was adopted on the evening of July 4.

So why don't we celebrate on July 2? Beasts me—Happy Fourth of July one and all! Readers, as you and I celebrate our freedom, won and secured by members of our military over the years, let's remember our troops in Iraq and around the world who risk their safety every day on our behalf.

Send messages of appreciation and support via www.Operation-DearAbby.net.

Trust me, they will be received with gratitude.

Dear Abby: What is wrong with men that they don't have the energy to pick up a phone when they're going to be late and let their wives (or girlfriends) know? After an hour we get anxious, after two, we get worried.

After three hours had passed with no word from my husband,

■ You think of McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, etc., as cheap food.

■ You probably own a telephone and a TV. Your place is heated in the winter and has its own bathroom. You do your laundry in a machine.

■ You don't kill your own food.

■ A bathroom may not have a bathtub in it, but it certainly has a toilet.

■ You expect, as a matter of course, that the phones will work.

■ Getting a new phone is routine.

■ You'd respect someone who speaks French, German or Japanese, but you very likely don't yourself speak them well enough to communicate.

■ If you take a tax level of 30 percent is scandalously high.

■ A hotel room has a private bath.

■ You seriously expect to be able to do business or deal with the government without paying bribes.

■ You count on excellent medical treatment. You know you're not going to die of cholera or other Third World diseases. You think dying at 65 would be a tragedy.

■ You're used to a wide variety of choices for almost any

I called the police. They assured me that there had been no accidents in the area. I considered asking them if they would be willing to arrest my husband for causing so much worry and make me look like such a fool for having called them.

We women are equally to blame. As soon as we find out that everything's OK, our hearts melt with relief and we forgive them on the spot. I need to know how to stay angry long enough to let my husband know this is unacceptable behavior. Hello! There are pay phones all over the place.

You men can let us know what's going on at any time.

—Karen in Little Dale, N.Y.

Dear Karen: I don't blame you for being miffed. There *are* a long time to wonder if a loved one is dead, injured or simply indiscreet.

I have another idea. Rather than "staying angry," give your darling a cell phone. Then if he's more than a half-hour late, instead of calling the police—call HIM.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 9940, Los Angeles, CA 90009. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.OperationDearAbby.net>. Universal Press Syndicate

If you're an American, you'll appreciate this list in July 4

Dear Readers: Today is Independence Day in the United States.

Although there is no hard historical evidence, we generally credit Betsy Ross with sewing the first American flag with the stars-and-stripes design. (Her name was Elizabeth "Betsy" Ross.) However, a professional Betsy Ross company flag maker, Mary Young Pickerskill, says the large flag that flew over Fort Mifflin during the War of 1812 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner." Her key tag now hangs in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. There are more Americans. One of our readers sent us this list, written by Mark Rosenfield. You can check out the full list, and additional lists about other countries, at his Web site, www.zompist.com. If You're American...

■ You believe deep down in the First Amendment.

■ You know how baseball, basketball and American football are played.

■ On the other hand (and under 20), you don't care that much for soccer.

■ You count yourself fortunate if you get three weeks of vacation a year.

■ You think of McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, etc., as cheap food.

■ You probably own a telephone and a TV. Your place is heated in the winter and has its own bathroom. You do your laundry in a machine.

■ You don't kill your own food.

■ A bathroom may not have a bathtub in it, but it certainly has a toilet.

■ You expect, as a matter of course, that the phones will work.

■ Getting a new phone is routine.

■ You'd respect someone who speaks French, German or Japanese, but you very likely don't yourself speak them well enough to communicate.

■ If you take a tax level of 30 percent is scandalously high.

■ A hotel room has a private bath.

■ You seriously expect to be able to do business or deal with the government without paying bribes.

■ You count on excellent medical treatment. You know you're not going to die of cholera or other Third World diseases. You think dying at 65 would be a tragedy.

■ You're used to a wide variety of choices for almost any

thing you buy.

■ You still measure things in feet, pounds and gallons.

■ You stop at red lights even if nobody's around.

■ You don't care very much how family someone comes from.

■ You think of opera and ballet as rather elite entertainments.

■ You'd be hard-pressed to name the capitals or the leaders of all the nations of Europe.

■ You've left a message at the beep.

■ If you have an appointment, you'll murder an excuse if you're five minutes late, and apologize profusely if it's 10 minutes. An hour late is almost inexcusable.

■ If you're talking to someone, you get uncomfortable if they approach closer than about 2 feet.

■ You take a strong court system for granted, even if you don't use it. You know that if you went into business and had problems with a customer, partner or supplier, you could take them to court.

■ You think most problems could be solved if only people would put aside their prejudices and work together.

■ You think of opera and ballet as rather elite entertainments.

■ You'd be hard-pressed to name the capitals or the leaders of all the nations of Europe.

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Annie's Mailbox

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OPINIONS

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Suspect logic on court ruling The Walla Walla (Wash.) Union-Bulletin

The war on terror does not have to be a war on our civil rights.

Yet, that's exactly what it has become. Last [month] the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Nevada law, which is also on the books in 20 other states, that makes it a crime for people not to identify themselves when asked to do so by police.

The ruling opens the door for Washington, Oregon and other states to enact similar laws in the quest of protecting us from terrorists. Let's hope they don't.

In the end, curbing freedom in the name of preserving freedom just doesn't work. The high court ruled 5-4, in an opinion authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy, that "questions concerning a suspect's identity are a routine and accepted part of many such police stops."

We don't disagree that police can ask "suspects" for their names nor do we disagree these are dangerous times.

But where we do disagree with the courts is the definition of "suspect." The courts seem to think anybody riding in a car or walking the streets is a suspect because he or she might have done something....

In a free society where the law of the land says "without having to identify ourselves to police or anybody else."

Cheney should find the energy The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

Vice President Dick Cheney ought to be forthright with the American people and reveal who influenced him in developing the administration's pro-polluter energy policy.

A Supreme Court decision on whether Cheney must make the information public unfortunately won't come before the presidential election. That's too bad. It's suspected that the administration listened only to the energy industry from the beginning, perhaps including Ken Lay, former Enron chief. The public has the right to know who this administration relied on for critical advice.

Eventually, what comes out could be startling information for those who care about the environment — most of the country, according to polls. It would be better if they had that information before the election.

If there's nothing to hide, the administration should not hesitate to release the details.

Candidate's loss, public's gain Journal Star, Peoria, Ill.

In a national leader, character counts.

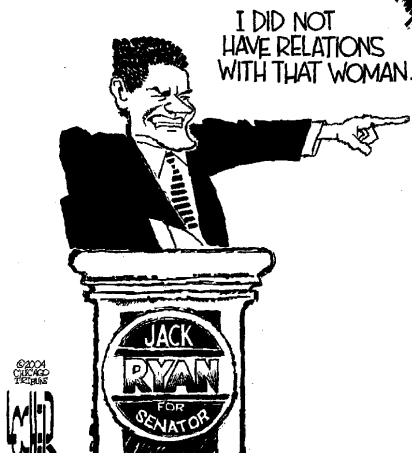
Apparently a large number of Illinoisans agree. Republican Senate nominee Jack Ryan withdrew his candidacy [last month] after polls and fellow politicians said voters wouldn't go for a guy accused of taking his wife to sex clubs and pressuring her to have public sex.

Ryan denied most of the allegations but did his credibility no favors when he misled key Illinois politicians into believing no cause for embarrassment would leap from his divorce files.

Ryan largely blamed the media for his withdrawal, alleging it was "out of control." He argued that he had stayed in the race, "a vigorous debate on the issues" likely could not have taken place....

A substantial number of voters, character is also an issue, and it deserves particular attention when candidates are new to politics and less defined by experience than by their (well-funded and crafted) commercial image....

In the end, how to weigh character, and



how to define it, is the voter's job. The media is to inform.

Bush needs warrant a look The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

Like the Keystone Cops or the Gang that Couldn't Shoot Straight, the Bush administration has been tripping over its own feet, giving rise to criticism that its defenders cite as some version of a vast left-wing conspiracy. But the truth is that the administration has only itself to blame for the recent bricks headed its way.

The incidents go back to the arguments the administration used to justify the war in Iraq, but they are more recent as well. The State Department's 180-degree reversal on the number of terror attacks in 2003 made it look like the administration had been trying to falsely claim success in reducing terrorism, while the Justice Department's legalistic defense of torture made the actions inside Abu Ghraib prison look more like policy than insubordination.

The administration insists the undercounting in the April terror report was caused by a compilation error, and [last month], in an effort to prove that Bush had rejected the use of torture, it unclassified documents regarding interrogation techniques. The protestations of innocence may be legitimate, but the constant repositioning of facts is also consistent with an administration that has been caught in the act.

Not easy to squeeze Cuba The (Baltimore) Sun

The Bush administration's tough new sanctions against Cuba have given President Fidel Castro yet another opportunity to spew his anti-American rhetoric and stage popular expressions of outrage.

Nothing new there. But when Cuban exiles in Miami question the policy, President Bush has a problem.

The sanctions, which took effect Wednesday, restrict American residents' travel to Cuba to once every three years and the amount of money to be spent there. They limit the kinds of gifts that can be received in Cuba and who can receive them.... The administration has imposed these restrictions in its bulldozed quest to force Castro from office. But let's face it: Forty-four years of sanctions haven't pried Castro from his seat of power.

Toughening sanctions, despite congressional support for lifting the travel ban, is a political ploy for votes in the powerful anti-Castro community in South Florida. Bush and his re-election chiefs, however, may have foolishly miscalculated the benefits of getting together with Castro before the November election.

Barring a Cuban exile from visiting a sick cousin because he doesn't qualify as immediate family under the new policy won't win Bush any votes.

Lost in cyberspace Los Angeles Times

Tucked into the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was a little-known program called the "e-rate," setting up a tax that has cost consumers and phone companies upward of \$2 billion a year. What has that money bought? A rudderless program riddled with fraud and waste.

The e-rate tax is aimed at providing schools and libraries with Internet access. The program, championed by Al Gore when he was vice president, was supposed to help schools allow low-income students to close the "digital divide" and gain new social and economic opportunities. Sen. John McCain, Ariz., began raising questions about it during a hearing on the program six years ago. Since then, its problems have become more apparent. The e-rate fund has distributed \$12 billion over six years, and estimates place the amount wasted in the billions. Because of lack of oversight, it's impossible to know the extent of the losses....

The e-rate program will come up for congressional reauthorization next year. Its overall success or failure has never even been measured. Unless the schools and libraries that want it renewed can help make the program accountable, there's not much point in continuing it.

Need to know what drugs do The Washington Post

Should pharmaceutical companies have to reveal the results of clinical trials they conduct on their drugs, even when the studies show the drugs to be ineffective? That's the issue behind a discussion that has begun among the editors of the nation's medical journals.

Concerned that drug companies may be

sending them only partial results from their clinical trials, they now want to set up a national registry of clinical trials....

At the moment, the law is straightforward. Companies are obliged only to reveal the results of testing they have done on drugs before they are approved by the Food and Drug administration. Any subsequent testing, which is usually done to determine if a drug approved for one disease might be effective against another disease... can legally be kept confidential.

[It] would be better, in principle, for more information about drugs to be available to the public in general and to doctors in particular, the American Medical Association recently said that its members felt the same way. But this is a change that has to be made at different levels. Concerned that they are being manipulated by drug companies, medical journal editors are planning to put together a proposal requiring companies to register detailed descriptions of their trials... before agreeing to publish articles based on the final results....

Forcing companies to publish results of all trials, as opposed to the fact of their existence, is more complicated, because a simple government regulation requiring publication of all results of all clinical trials might backfire and wind up discouraging companies from conducting any trials at all. For that reason, Congress... needs to take up this issue again and look at incentives that might persuade companies to conduct more and better clinical trials, even if they aren't commercially advantageous.... Any system that leads to the concealment or manipulation of research isn't serving doctors, patients or, in the end, even drug companies very well.

SpaceShipOne's private party The Cincinnati Enquirer

[Last month's] remarkable flight by the SpaceShipOne rocket plane, which barely scraped across the arbitrary outer boundary of Earth's atmosphere, may have been one small step for manned spaceflight, but it was one giant leap for the entrepreneurial spirit. It sent a soaring signal that the era of commercial space travel offered by private industry may be nearer than we think. And it provided further evidence that while there are many... this kind of government is well-equipped to do, matters of efficient, timely innovation are best left to a free, competitive market.

Kansas crashes

KS PEABODY — A six-vehicle crash in a highway construction zone left five people dead, a day after two others died in a collision at the same place, authorities said.

In both crashes, a tractor-trailer hit a passenger vehicle that had stopped or slowed down near where the two-lane U.S. 50 changes to one lane. Crews are doing repairs along a 22-mile stretch of the highway.

A nine-mile stretch of the highway was closed Wednesday following Tuesday evening's accident.

Last month, two people were killed in the same construction zone when their van was rear-ended by a tractor-trailer. The accidents occurred about 40 miles northeast of Wichita.

More street shootings

MI DETROIT — Gunfire erupted following a fight on the city's east side Tuesday night, leaving three men dead and three other people wounded, police said.

Deputy Chief Ronald Haddad said the shootings happened after two women were fighting outside a home and one of them returned with a man. Shots were then fired, hitting six people, Haddad said.

The victims ranged in age from 17 and 45, police said. Two victims were hospitalized in critical condition, authorities said. Haddad said the man, who was shot in the chest, and a woman shot in the knee appeared to be innocent bystanders who were at or near their homes.

Others wounded included a 17-year-old girl who went to a hospital on her own with a bullet wound to a hand, police said. The injury wasn't considered life-threatening.

Police didn't immediately release information about a suspect, and said they didn't know whether all those killed were involved in the fight.

Death row cleanup

MS JACKSON — A federal appeals court ruled that conditions on Mississippi's death row are so bad it amounts to cruel and unusual punishment, with inmates stuck in filthy, hot cells and given inadequate mental health care.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday ordered the state Department of Corrections to make changes including repairing toilets, adding screen windows and fans and improving mental health care.

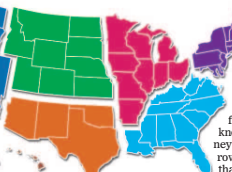
The court also directed the state to house inmates with severe mental illnesses separately from others.

Serious sibling rivalry

PA POTTSVILLE — A woman who apparently believed her sister was an unfit mother accused her of poisoning an infant in an attempt to gain custody of the child, police said Tuesday.

Kelly Heffner, 29, was baby-sitting her 2-month-old nephew Thursday when she told police that one of the child's bottles smelled like toothache medicine in the child's diaper bag. She accused the baby's mother of drugging the baby's formula, according to police.

The child was taken to a hospital



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

emergency room, where police said he was found to be healthy.

Police said Heffner, of Birdsboro, eventually confessed to rubbing the medicine on the lip of the baby's bottle herself.

Well-timed delivery

MA WEYMOUTH — Giving birth is like clockwork for Cheryl Steljes.

The Cohasset woman gave birth to a son, Adam, on Sunday at 10:12 p.m. That was four years to the minute after the birth of her daughter, Lindsay, on June 27, 2000.

"None of it was planned. It was all coincidence," father Stephen Steljes said.

Both babies had a June 15 due date and were nearly two weeks late. But they were born at different hospitals.

Lindsay weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces, and Adam is 8 pounds, 8 ounces.

Cheryl Steljes said she "really didn't want them to have the same birthday," but 4-year-old Lindsay doesn't seem to mind.

"I'm going to share," she said.

Imitating St. Nick

CA LANCASTER — An 11-year-old boy had to be rescued by firefighters after he got stuck in a chimney while trying to get into his friend's locked house.

"I wasn't Santa Claus," said Rance Hill, who spent 1½ hours in the chimney Tuesday.

The Antelope Valley boy said he was trying to help a friend when he



Eye of the tiger

Scott Guttentag of Santa Barbara, Calif., raises his fists in the air as he mimics a scene from the film "Rocky" at the top of the Philadelphia Museum of Art steps.

shimmied down the chimney at about 4:30 p.m. and got stuck feet-first. His friend was unable to pull him free and called Los Angeles County firefighters.

They tried to get him out from below and even knocked a hole in the chimney at a point where it narrowed to about 8 inches but that didn't work, fire Inspector Mike McCormick said.

"My foot was stuck," Hill said. Finally, they were able to haul up the sooty youngster with a rope.

Harley hearses

PA ALUM BANK — Harley-Davidson fans can finally take their final ride in style.

Tombstone Hearse Co. two years ago began building hand-crafted Old West-style casket carriers that are pulled by a modified Harley-Davidson Road King.

"We take a regular bike and turn it into a motorbike with special gears to pull a heavier load," said company co-founder Dave Follmar. "We can accommodate most caskets, including oversized ones."

Follmar, a retired cabinetmaker, came up with the idea 12 years ago. With the help of construction expert Jack Feather, Follmar has now franchised the idea and has a network of hearses in service stretching from Texas to Michigan and New Jersey.

Rowdy party meeting

TX AUSTIN — Tensions at a Republican meeting boiled over with assault charges against a GOP member accused in an attack on a fellow party member.

Law officers on Wednesday charged Stephen Titus Runyan, the sergeant at arms for Travis County Republican Party Chairman Alan Sager, with assault with injury after they said he "physically removed" Brian Russell from a May 26 meeting at a Holiday Inn in Northwest Austin.

Russell, who in May was a candidate for the state Republican executive committee for Senate District 14, had wanted to videotape the county GOP executive committee meeting.

"It was just very uncivil," Russell told the Austin American-Statesman in Friday's online edition.

Don't moon the judge

CT MILFORD — A man who dropped his pants in court and mooned a judge was jailed for six months on a contempt charge.

Richard Brown, 38, shouted insults and obscenities after Superior Court Judge Patrick Carroll told him to address the court as "sir." He dropped the pants of his two-piece prison jumpsuit and pointed his rear end at the judge.

Brown continued to shout taunts and expletives Wednesday as he was restrained by state marshals and forcibly escorted through a side door to a holding cell.

Brown's outburst came during a plea hearing. He was expected to plead guilty to armed robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery in exchange for a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

After the outburst, the prosecutor withdrew the plea agreement.



High roller

visit to the area with friends.

Matthew Marlinson soars over a ramp at a skate park in Watertown, Wis., during a



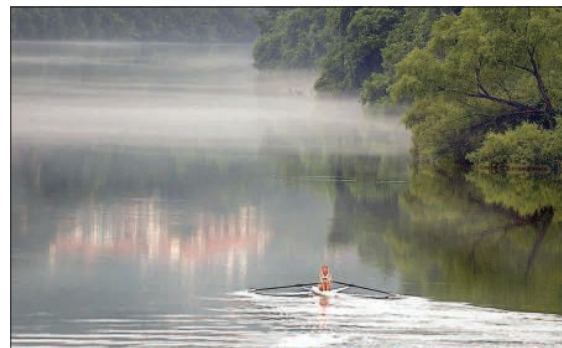
Time traveling

A wagon train travels on an overpass above Interstate 25, east of Wellington, Colo. The group is traveling from Wellington to Greeley, Colo., in covered wagons, re-enacting the famous travels across the Cherokee Wagon Train trail.



Cooling off

Juan McQueen, 10, plays on a giant orange sprinkler at the East Bradenton Aquatic Center as temperatures in the area are soaring into the 90s in Bradenton, Fla.



Row your boat
on the surface of the lake.

Lynette Thomas rows on Town Lake in Austin, Texas, during a lull in rainfall. One of the large homes above the lake on the south shore is reflected



Sneaking a peek

An endangered hooded crane chick nestles under the protective wing of its mother at SeaWorld San Diego, Calif. The chick, hatched on June 14, becomes the 33rd hooded crane in the North American zoological population. Hooded cranes typically nest in bogs in China and Siberia, and most of the 9,500 hooded cranes in existence winter in Japan.



Plebe summer begins

Daniel Frary, of Farmington, N.M., learns the proper way to salute during Induction Day at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Just under 1,000 incoming plebes registered at the Naval Academy's induction for new students.



Waiting for the call

An Ester, Alaska, volunteer fire truck sits outside the Chatanika Lodge, some 30 miles northeast of Fairbanks. Firefighters were getting ready to protect the lodge from the 117,500-acre Boundary Fire, which was advancing.

Police officer fired

OK BIXBY — A police officer who shot a family's tethered dog while investigating a burglar alarm was fired Wednesday for making an obscene gesture to television news crews during a class on assessing canine threats.

Officer Cory Forister denied making the gesture intentionally but was fired for conduct unbecoming an officer, police Chief Anthony Stephens said.

Forister made the gesture Tuesday during the Humane Society class that Bixby officers were required to attend after he shot a 6-year-old golden retriever named Fluppy on June 5. Fluppy had to be euthanized.

Some slack for donors?

OH CLEVELAND — An edgy new advertising campaign to promote organ donation hints that police officers should cut speeds who are organ donors some slack.

"Hey policeman," a Cleveland billboard calls out, an arrow pointing to a donor insignia on a young man's license, "give this guy a break."

The advertisements by LifeBanc, the Cleveland-based organ procurement agency for 20 counties in northeast Ohio, are meant to attract attention, a spokeswoman said.

"We wanted to get people thinking," said the agency's Monica Heath, noting that 1,300 people in northeast Ohio are waiting for organs.

Texas deputies sue

TX HOUSTON — Seven black deputies and a former deputy claim in a federal lawsuit they were wrongly forced to pose for a lineup after a woman claimed she was sexually assaulted by a black man in a sheriff's uniform.

The seven men said the incident in June 1999 was meant to humiliate them in front of jail inmates and other officers because they are black. A letter with the lawsuit said the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission concluded in 2001 that the incident violated the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

No one was ever charged in the attack, James Phillips Jr., president of the Afro-American Sheriff's Deputy League, told the Houston Chronicle.

Dropping a bomb

PA ERIE — A man who soiled his underwear and tried to dispose of the evidence by tossing it over the fence of the city's largest reservoir has been fined \$5,000.

The city bomb squad and hazardous materials crew responded after an Erie Water Works employee spotted a black bag near the 33-million gallon Sigbee Reservoir last month.

The reservoir was shut down for several hours while the bomb squad X-rayed the bag and hazardous materials crews waited to test it.

Police tracked down Troy Mysel, 18, of Erie. He told police he'd been ill and soiled his underwear. He changed at a friend's house,

then climbed over two barbed-wire-topped fences to ditch the skivvies.

Remembering history

NJ GREEN BROOK TOWNSHIP — A time capsule buried in the cornerstone of an elementary school 66 years ago has been saved from oblivion — thanks to a man who remembered witnessing the ceremony.

Rens P. Eelman, 74, was age 8 when the small metal box was put in the cornerstone of the Irene E. Feldkirchner Elementary School in 1938. When part of the building was scheduled to be demolished last week, Eelman accompanied Committeewoman Melonie Marano to look around the school for any artifacts the township might want to preserve.

It was during the tour that Eelman remembered the time capsule. Workers found the capsule where Eelman said it would be.

The capsule is on display at the township municipal building, and Marano said she will discuss what to do with it with the Board of Education.

\$18,000 grill gone

MO KANSAS CITY — Barbecue champ Paul Kirk is flaming mad over the theft of his custom-made \$18,000 grill.

"It was a slap across the face of mankind," said David Klose, the Houston man who built the giant custom-made barbecue cooker.

"It's like stealing a man's Corvette, it's a cardinal sin."

Kirk's 15-foot grill and the \$8,000 van that pulled it were stolen over the weekend, along with food intended for a catering job — at least 10 pounds of brisket, a few chickens and a tall stack of ribs.

The cooker and the van were recovered Tuesday at an apartment complex in Merriam, Kan. Roeland Park [Kan.] Police Chief Rex Taylor said police had no suspects and are investigating the crime as an auto theft.

Old ether disposed of

ME FAIRFIELD — Members of the State Police bomb squad detonated two containers of ether that were found in a high school chemistry lab. The containers were exploded outside of Lawrence High School after they were found to have been there since 1989. Waterville fire Capt. David LaFountain said as ether gets old, it becomes volatile and powerful enough to "take the roof right off the building."

Tests lost in mail

VA FAIRFAX — More than 270 Edison High students learned that a United Parcel Service conveyor belt in Kentucky ate their Standards of Learning exams. Some students will have to retake their tests over the summer or in the fall. But what's really painful for school administrators is the fact that it's the second time in two years that tests from Edison have been lost. Students have to pass the high school reading and writing tests, along with four other SOL exams, before they can graduate.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

YOUR MONEY

Adding state tax, Social Security to mix

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military life-style but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband Jake's new command. Last week *Petty Officer Porch* talked about Tax Day.

Petty Officer Porch continued: "You need to come to PSD to find out exactly how much tax will be withheld from your paycheck if you claim these allowances. We know that the total amount of taxes taken out of your

Money U.

paycheck in this example is \$899 for 2004, \$899 divided by 24 paychecks equals \$37.45 per paycheck.

"Come by and ask your PSD clerk how many allowances you need to claim to be as close as you can to \$37.45 per paycheck. My guess is it'll be either three or four allowances."

Ralph Nelson

"That sounds easy enough," I said. "What about the other taxes withheld on my W-2—Social Security,

Medicare and state income taxes? Are those taxes figured the same way as federal taxes? Do I take allowances for them, too?"

"Calculating your state income tax is similar to calculating your federal taxes," he replied. "You just subtract the standard deduction and personal exemption from your base pay, and multiply the result by your state tax rate."

"If you don't have your state's actual tax rate handy, use the average U.S. state tax rate of 5 percent. Check your state of residence forms for the actual numbers. You also must pick allowances on your state tax withholding form."

"Your Social Security deduction is 6.2 percent of your base pay and Medicare is 1.45 percent of your base pay."

"I received a big refund last year," a

woman in the back said with excitement.

"That's good, right?"

"Actually, any refund is bad," he replied. "You are giving an interest-free loan to the government. If you put your refund in the bank last year instead of letting the government hold it if for you, you'd have earned interest."

Suddenly, she didn't look so excited about bringing up her refund check.

"One more thing," he continued. "By April 15 of each year, you are required to fill out a tax return form. For many of you, you'll use Form 1040EZ available at any post office."

"The 1040EZ compares the taxes you withheld last year with the taxes you actually owed last year. If you take out more taxes than you owe, you receive money back in the form of a refund check. If you take out too little in taxes, you have to write a check to the government

for the difference."

Taxes were much clearer now—even after what my dad had explained to me about taxes a couple years back.

"Let me sum everything up before I leave taxes," Petty Officer Porch said. "Add just the allowances on your W-4 at the beginning of the year after estimating the amount of tax you'll need to take out of each paycheck."

"After you receive your W-2 at the end of each year, fill out the 1040EZ form by April 15 and send it in to the government—and don't forget to send your completed state tax forms in, too. A tax return reconciles the taxes taken out of your paycheck during the year with the actual amount of taxes you owe for the whole year."

Next week, Petty Officer Porch talks about retirement.

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States' tax revenues up to 10 percent

BY ROBERT TANNER

The Associated Press

Trying to funnel money toward long-starved programs, ballot questions in several states hope to persuade voters to bypass reluctant lawmakers and free up cash for emergency medical care, education, services for the poor and more.

The uptick in voter initiatives comes after three years of economic strains.

Most states now report an improving economy and healthy revenues, but advocates for many causes say spending, especially for social services, hasn't kept up.

"These programs, they've been sacrificed for the states' budget woes," said Mike Melanson, campaign manager for a Colorado effort to raise tobacco taxes by 64 cents per pack, with the money to be devoted to poor children's health care.

Washington voters could decide whether to raise the state's sales tax by 1 cent per dollar to pay for K-12 education.

Initiative drives in California hope to make the state spend more on mental health programs, emergency hospital care and children's hospitals.

Other ballot questions that would increase spending—some already on the ballot and some still gathering signatures—also are brewing in Arkansas, Nevada, Oklahoma and Utah.

The turn to the ballot box, among the 23 states that allow citizen initiatives, doesn't surprise state leaders. The improving economy does ease pressures, they say, but it also raises unrealistic hopes among advocates.

"You've got to hold people's ex-

pectations down," said Republican Joseph Varello in Washington state, chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. "For some people, there's never enough spent in certain areas."

For states, the economic downturn in 2001 pushed revenues off a cliff. After the late 1990s boom, state spending grew only 1.3 percent in fiscal 2002 and 0.6 percent in 2003, according to the National Governors Association.

Spending is rising faster now, though at just a fraction of the 6.2 percent average of the past 25 years—up 2.8 percent in the fiscal year that ends this month, and an estimated 2.8 percent next year.

Tax revenues, however, are showing signs of healthy growth—up 5.5 percent from the year before for the fiscal quarter that ended in March, after adjusting for inflation and tax changes, according to the Rockefeller Institute in Albany.

"There's the third straight quarter of growth, with each quarter bringing bigger gains following several quarters of decline, the institute found. Personal income taxes, sales taxes and corporate taxes all saw strong growth."

But stronger revenues aren't translating into cash for programs that need it, at least in the eyes of supporters. "There's real inability to have any forward progress... [lawmakers] are fearful of doing anything major," said Natalie Berber, working on the Washington state initiative for primary education. "We kind of felt like we were pushed up against the wall."

Washington state in particular has had bruising fights over tax-

For residents to decide

Voters in several states will be asked this fall to decide whether to increase spending or raise taxes to fund state programs for schools, the poor and other social services. Among them:

■ **Arkansas:** Voters will decide whether to raise the minimum property tax used to fund school operations. Put on the ballot by the Legislature.

■ **California:** Voters will decide whether to raise telephone surcharges and tobacco taxes to cover the costs of emergency medical care, whether to raise taxes on incomes over \$1 million to pay for mental health services, and whether to approve bonds that would fund children's hospitals.

■ **Colorado:** If enough signatures are collected, voters would be asked to raise cigarette taxes by 64 cents a pack to pay for

health care programs for the poor and for tobacco prevention programs.

■ **Nevada:** A ballot question, if approved, would require the state to fund public schools to the national average. Though it would increase spending, the initiative doesn't require specific tax or revenue increases.

■ **Oklahoma:** Voters will decide whether to raise cigarette taxes and whether to create a lottery that would fund education.

■ **Utah:** If signatures are approved, voters would pay for \$150 million in bonds to preserve open space. Covered by an increase in the sales tax of one-twentieth of 1 percent.

■ **Washington:** Voters will be asked if the state should increase the state sales tax by 1 cent per dollar, with the money guaranteed for K-12 education.

—The Associated Press

ing and spending, with voters in past years approving initiatives that increased salaries for teachers on one hand, while also approving initiatives limiting tax increases.

A similar squeeze has left Colorado in a fix, as voter-approved limits on spending and taxes have been strained by another voter-approved mandate to increase student spending as inflation rises.

"It's a double whammy," Melanson said. "Whenever there's a budget crunch, it's these health programs that are the first on the cutting block."

Some groups in Colorado are

considering another initiative to ease the spending limits.

Dramatic tax increases have been passed in some states, as voters argue it's time to pay back the pendulum after years of tax cuts.

New Jersey raised taxes on the wealthiest. Virginia, with a coalition of Republicans and a Democratic governor, raised taxes by more than \$1 billion; others, like Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, have proposed sweeping tax restructuring that would lower property taxes by expanding gambling.

Still, anti-tax sentiment hasn't

State tax revenue

Changes in state tax laws generated a \$1.1 billion net increase in state revenue, growing by 8.1 percent in the first quarter of 2004 compared to the same period last year.

State tax revenue, quarterly percent change



NOTE: Not adjusted for tax law changes and inflation

SOURCE: State Revenue Report AP

subsidized. Initiatives in Florida, Nevada and South Dakota, among others, aim to cut taxes.

And voters in recent years have forcefully rejected big-dollar tax increases in Alabama and Oregon.

Perhaps the balance has shifted after years of complaints that government services have withered, said Kristina Wilfong, executive director of the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center in Washington.

"Have [voters] felt the pain enough to eat their peas?" she said. "We'll see."

Tax cuts are always an easier sell than higher taxes, said Varello.

"Everyone's a closet conservative when it comes to raising taxes. The majority of folks, when it comes time to vote on taking money out of their paycheck, are going to say no."

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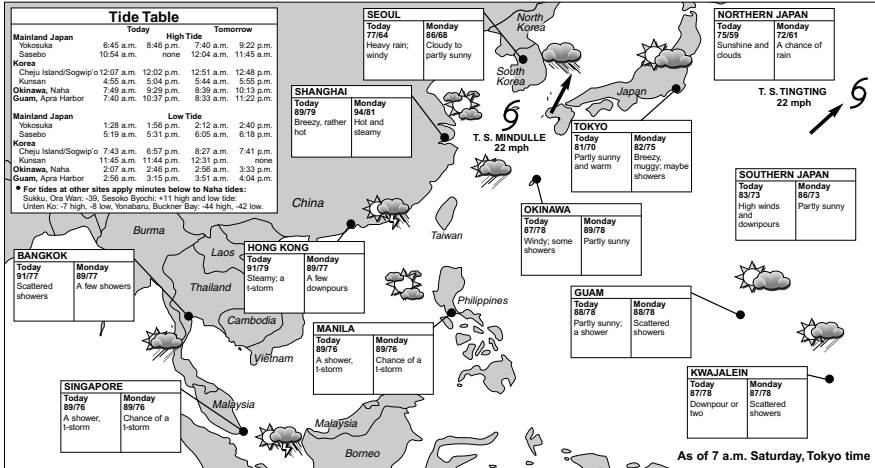
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STARS AND STRIPES

The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, high 88, low 80.
 Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 90, low 80.

KADENA

Tuesday: Showers, high 88, low 76.
 Wednesday: Showers, high 87, low 76.

SEoul

Tuesday: Thundershowers, high 88, low 71.
 Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, high 90, low 70.

MANILA

Tuesday: Showers, high 89, low 76.
 Wednesday: Showers, high 87, low 76.

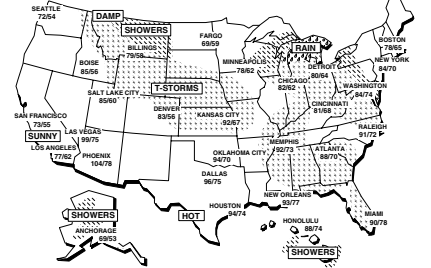
HAGATNA

Tuesday: Showers, high 88, low 76.
 Wednesday: Showers, high 86, low 76.

Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	94/63	Los Angeles	78/62
Amesbury	92/65	Little Rock	86/71
Anchorage	68/57	Louisville	85/72
Asheville	78/63	Miami	91/77
Baltimore	89/68	Milwaukee	74/61
Birmingham	84/70	Nashville	83/70
Bismarck	88/62	New York	87/70
Boise	88/61	Omaha	77/67
Boston	84/63	Orlando	92/73
Brownsville	96/77	Philadelphia	91/70
Buffalo	76/58	Phoenix	106/77
Burlington	78/56	Pittsburgh	86/62
Charleston, SC	86/73	Portland, OR	76/60
Charlotte	85/68	Portland, ME	78/58
Cleveland	81/61	Salt Lake City	90/62
Columbus, OH	88/67	St. Louis	84/70
Dallas	72/57	San Antonio	94/74
El Paso	98/71	San Diego	72/65
Harford	88/59	San Juan	91/76
Havana	85/57	Tampa	91/76
Indianapolis	87/69	Tulsa	87/71
Jacksonville	90/72	Washington	91/72
Kansas City	80/67	Wichita	87/66

Sunday, July 04



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system tracking across the Great Lakes Sunday will produce clouds as well as showers and thunderstorms from Michigan and Wisconsin south to parts of Tennessee. A cold front moving into North Dakota will usher in some cooler air. Low pressure in northern Texas will help to trigger thunderstorms across northern parts of the state. The Southwest will be dry with plenty of sunshine. Low clouds will give way to sun in Southern California with afternoon showers in the northern Rockies. The air will be mild to warm over the East Coast. The storm system across the Great Lakes will pull northeast into Quebec Monday bringing showers to update New York and northern New England.

Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	91/67	Iwakuni	84/74
Beijing	82/69	Kadena AB	87/78
Camp Casey	74/64	Kunsan AB	77/69
Christchurch	44/31	Kwajalein	87/78
Diego Garcia	82/75	Manila	89/76
Hagatna	88/78	Misawa AB	89/59
Hanoi	99/83	Osan	75/67
Hong Kong	91/79	Perth	57/44
Honolulu	88/74	Pusan	77/69

Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	92/77	Budapest	78/57
Athens	92/73	Buenos Aires	57/41
Auckland	50/40	Cairo	99/69
Baghdad	114/81	Cancun	85/72
Barbados	85/68	Cape Town	57/39
Barcelona	77/64	Geneva	73/58
Berlin	64/45	Istanbul	82/66
Bermuda	83/71	Jerusalem	89/61
Brussels	63/46	Johannesburg	67/39
		Moscow	67/50
		Kabul	101/64
		Kiev	57/41
		Kuwait	114/82
		London	62/47
		Madrid	95/69
		Paris	63/46
		Rio de Janeiro	79/67
		Stockholm	77/55
		St. Petersburg	72/52
		Warsaw	68/49



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QAfter you dismissed the idea of a Jennifer Lopez-Mar Anthony romance, they got hitched. What do you have to say for yourself now? — Mike Clark, Portland, Ore.
AWe're still dubious about true romance. At 34, J.Lo already has lived through two New York-minute marriages, a car chase with boyfriend Sean Combs after a nightclub shooting and an 11th-hour wedding cancellation with Ben Affleck. As for Anthony, 35, he's a serial philanderer who just got a quickie divorce and is the father of at least one out-of-wedlock baby. Sorry, but that doesn't sound like two people who know how to build a long-lasting relationship.



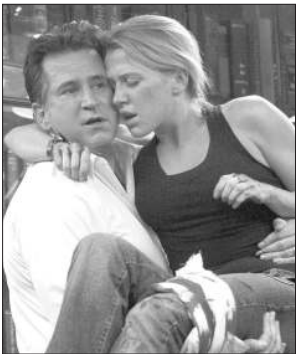
Cochran

QJohnnie Cochran was ill a while back. How serious was it? — V.L.F., Los Angeles
AWhen it comes to his health, anormally long-winded Cochran, 66, is mum. We can report that he was hospitalized in February for what doctors called a "neurological condition." Now recovering at home in L.A., he's well enough to oversee his bicoastal law practice.

QFormer President Carter, a Naval Academy graduate who served on battleships and subs, was conspicuously absent from the World War II Memorial dedication. Why? — Dianne Warden, Odessa, Texas
ACarter, 79, originally planned to attend the ceremony but instead decided to lead a delegation to Venezuela, where he observed that country's vote-verification procedure. Incidentally, the Navy's latest and most advanced submarine of the Seawolf class recently was christened U.S.S. Jimmy Carter.

QI heard that Oscar nominee John C. Reilly ("Chicago") walked off a film recently. What's the story? — Sandy Mayfield, Carlton, Ohio
AReilly, 39, left the set of Lars von Trier's film "Manderlay" to protest the killing of a donkey in a scene shot in Sweden. A spokesman for the film's Danish production company said, "The donkey was due to be slaughtered anyway" — an excuse that did not appease the SPCA of Los Angeles or The Humane Society, which denounced the brutal act.

QHas tennis star Monica Seles retired? — Mary Berticevich, San Jose, Calif.
ANo. Seles — winner of 53 singles titles, including nine Grand Slams — has been nursing a stress fracture of her left foot for a year. She'd hoped to play at the French Open in May but didn't feel ready. At 30, Seles may have seen her best years on the court, but she says a love of the game still drives her to compete.



CBS

Anthony LaPaglia, shown with "Without a Trace" costar Poppy Montgomery, will remain on the show.



Ever the optimist when it comes to marriage, Jennifer Lopez has gotten hitched a third time.

KRT

QWhat can you tell me about Redmond O'Neal, the troubled son of Farrah Fawcett and Ryan O'Neal? — Ray Baxter, Denver
ARedmond, 19, was charged with forgery last year and ordered into rehab for heroin addiction, which he left prematurely. His parents were there in April when a judge sent him back to rehab. It's hard to say who is in greater denial: mom or son. Asked about Redmond, Farrah said: "He's in a good place, mentally and physically."

QI was a fan of Pier Angeli, who was only 39 when she died of a drug overdose in 1971. Why did she commit suicide? — Judy Miller, E. Stroudsburg, Pa.
APerry Damone, 48, insists his mother's overdose of a prescription drug was accidental — she'd just landed a TV role and was upbeat. But there's no doubt that the actress "never got over her love for James Dean," says producer Gene Corman, who's readying a biopic titled *No Tomorrow*. "Her mother blocked plans to marry Dean because he was not Catholic." Instead, Pier wed singer Vic Damone in 1954 but was haunted by rumors that Dean was Perry's dad.

QAnthony LaPaglia's character on "Without a Trace" quit the FBI to follow his wife to Chicago. Does the actor want out of the show? — Marty M., Boston

AYou must have missed the end of the season finale. LaPaglia's wife, played by Talia Balsam, said she didn't want to be married to him anymore — freeing him to stay with the missing persons squad in New York. Women viewers must be questioning Balsam's sanity: She's leaving LaPaglia on TV, and she divorced George Clooney in real life in 1992.

QI noticed that Paris Hilton is back on TV in "The Simple Life 2: Road Trip." I recently heard her referred to as "a socialite." Does that term really apply to Paris? — J.G., Lake Oswego, Ore.

AWell ... she is very sociable.



Paris Hilton seems pretty sociable in her public appearances.

AP

FACES 'N' PLACES

Limp Bizkit off the hook

Limp Bizkit and lead singer Fred Durst aren't liable for the injuries a fan suffered at a 2000 concert, an appeals court ruled.

The fan, a paramedic, was kicked in the head after Durst invited concertgoers to come down to the main floor, the Michigan Court of Appeals said.

In a unanimous decision released Wednesday, the appellate court said Durst did not act irresponsibly by inviting concertgoers to come down to the main floor during a performance at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

An eyewitness said someone in the crowd kicked the paramedic, Christopher Dickinson, as if he were a soccer ball.

"The thug who kicked [Dickinson] in the head violated his duty to [Dickinson] and, if caught, should be held accountable," the appeals court said.



Durst

Judd campaigns for AIDS awareness

Ashley Judd will visit Cambodia next week to raise AIDS awareness and to launch new health products and services, a U.N. program said Thursday.

The star of "Double Jeopardy" and "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" also will visit Thailand and attend this month's international AIDS conference in Bangkok, according to YouthAIDS, run by the nonprofit Population Services International.

Her visits will include trips to clinics and schools to speak with children about the threat of catching HIV. She'll tour the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, home to the famed Angkor Wat temples, during her stay.

In Asia, 7 million people are HIV positive, with about 2 million of those ranging from 15-24 years old.

Ban on Marcos film appealed

A Manila, Philippines, film distributor Thursday appealed a local court's ban on a documentary that Inelda Marcos, widow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has said portrays her in a bad light.

Distributor United Pictures Inc. is appealing the ban in the Supreme Court, saying it involves crucial democratic issues.

"The abusive, inexcusable and wrongful exercise of [the judge's] restraining powers is an assault not only on the liberty of the press but on the very bedrock of democratic government," United said.



Marcos

Bennett dinner a charity ripoff?

Gary Pusteri may ask to read the fine print next time he dines with a celebrity.

Billed as "Dinner with Tony Bennett," Pusteri paid \$15,000, the highest bid — for what he thought was to be an evening meal with the 77-year-old singer at a downtown Italian restaurant in Baltimore last weekend.

Instead, Pusteri and more than 100 others got to shake Bennett's hand. And when it came time to eat, the retired computer analyst ate on the second floor, while Bennett dined with his guests on the first floor.

"It was a big disappointment," Pusteri said. "I really wanted to be with him. That's why I bid extra."

Pusteri, 52, placed the bid at a charity auction held moments before Bennett took the stage at a concert to raise money for ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease) research at Johns Hopkins.

When Pusteri arrived at the restaurant, he and his guests were ushered to a table, completely out of sight of Bennett.

"I never actually saw him except when he left the limo," he said. "I got to shake his hand, but I expected to walk in with him and sit down."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

A dim bulb ... or has Jessica Simpson shyly slipped into the spotlight?

BY JIM ABBOTT

The Orlando Sentinel

A blonde walks into the White House and meets Interior Secretary Gale Norton: "I really like what you've done with the place," she says.

The punch line, reported in Teen People, comes from Jessica Simpson, though it's open to conjecture whether the singer-turned-reality-star-turned-uber-product-pitcher is really a ditz or just plays one on TV.

Either way, the popularity of her MTV series "Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica" has made the dazzling blonde America's most popular dim bulb since Suzanne Somers played Chrissy on "Tidy Company." The MTV show follows Simpson's married life with pop star Nick Lachey.

It's hard to imagine "Newlyweds" would be such a cult hit without its famous "Jessica Moments," like when the reality-challenged pop star attempts to go camping, pump gas or discern the origin of Buffalo wings or Chicken of the Sea.

Is it an act?

"People call me a dumb blonde and to me, that's funny," Simpson says in a phone interview that she conducts while getting her hair and nails done. "I am ditz and I have been since I was a young girl flirting with boys."

"I always played into it because it's fun. That's me showing my imperfections that people can relate to, so they know I'm not perfect."

Rather than ditz or dumb, there's another word Simpson uses to explain her appeal: Real.

"Whenever you have an image, it always hurts you," she says.

"Your image should be your heart and who you are. It shouldn't be your costumes and this dance move or that dance move, or how you can shock somebody."

Simpson is content to leave the shock tactics to Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, singers who once overshadowed her in the teen-pop arena. Like them, Simpson auditioned for the 1990s version of "The Mickey Mouse Club" in Orlando, but she didn't make the cut.

Instead, the Dallas native had her first career break as a contemporary Christian act, touring with Kirk Franklin, CeCe Winans and God's Property. A preacher's daughter, Simpson maintained that moral perspective even when she scored her first pop hit in 1999 with "I Wanna Love You Forever."

When Britney and Christina were shedding clothes, piercing body parts and walking the aisle in Vegas, Simpson was keeping her virginity until her wedding night.

Now it seems like the approach might be paying off. Her wholesome image has made her ubiquitous in a commercial for everything from pizza to breath mints. A new season of "Newlyweds" started Wednesday. She reportedly is in line to play Daisy Duke in an upcoming big-screen version of "The Duke of Hazard," beating out Spears.

If that triumph is sweet, Simpson isn't gloating.

"I used to compete with people, and that was my music was never successful," says Simpson, 23. "I was al-

ways comparing myself to something else out there, so I was always feeling like I was not good enough."

"Being myself, that's the best kind of success to have. There's no bells and whistles. You don't have to impress anybody with anything. Now people don't compare me to anyone else."

It doesn't offend Simpson to suggest that her career boom has less to do with her music or acting resume (which includes a stint on "That '70s Show") than a few silly scenes in reality show.

"It all works together," she says. "It only works for me to be positive because that's how I am."

Simpson's latest album, "In This Skin," was re-released this year with bonus cover versions of Berlin's "Take My Breath Away" and Robbie Williams' "Angels." Another song, "With You," also was a chart-topping radio hit.

"She can really sing," says Adam Cook, operations manager at Orlando's 106.7 FM (WXLI), which booked Simpson for its annual Red, Hot and Boom Independence Day concert celebration last year. "She has a super-solid voice."

Fortunately, fans of Simpson's show don't worry too much about the music. Amanda Barrett, 24, tuned into "Newlyweds" on a whim after she heard friends talking about it.

"I was never a big fan of her before," says Barrett, an insurance-company claims adjuster in Orlando. "I'm not even a fan of her music, but I think the show is so outrageous it just draws you in. You have to see what she'll do next."

That easygoing manner separates Simpson from other stars who aim to be glamorous (Paris Hilton) or sexy (Britney), says one pop-culture observer.

"Jessica Simpson has really carved out an interesting niche in what was already a crowded cultural environment," says Robert Thompson, founder of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University. "Newlyweds' kind of invented this other space for her," he says.

"She took a little bit from the book of Anna Nicole Smith with the obliviousness and cluelessness, but she's so much more likable."

"With Jessica Simpson, you wanted to explain things to her and have her over for some pot roast. She's inserting herself into the culture as almost this Gidget character who's wholesome in her attractiveness."

Simpson keeps it real at her concerts by taking questions from audience members and showing funny TV clips.

"It's not about production," she says. "It's about me giving appreciation to the people who got me to the stage. I want people to relate to me."

She adds that anyone who expects her to dish out doozy comments on demand when she's out of the spotlight might be disappointed.

"They probably expect me to act that way, but five minutes into the conversation they'd probably say, 'I'm pretty shocked.'"

But not in a Britney way.



AP

Elvis celebration renews rock debate

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — As far as Elvis Presley songs go, "That's All Right," his very first record, wasn't among his biggest hits.

In fact, the 1954 song wasn't even a hit at all.

Yet on July 5, 50 years to the day after it was recorded, media and fans will converge on Memphis for a blowout celebration to commemorate the song, which has been labeled by the city as the tune that started the musical and cultural phenomenon known as rock 'n' roll.

But while Elvis may be universally known as the King of Rock 'n' Roll, some consider it a stretch to anoint him the creator of a genre that mixed blues, R&B, country and even a bit of swing — musical styles that were around long before Elvis.

"There was a birth way before — where did Elvis get it from?" asked rocker Lenny Kravitz.

"The thing we think of as rock 'n' roll is Elvis," said rock historian Marc Kirskey. "But there were records that would be thought of as rock 'n' roll before that and they were done by black artists."

And not just blacks — or even artists — are credited with starting rock 'n' roll. Just two years ago, there were commemorations of the 50th anniversary of rock 'n' roll pegged to disc jockey Alan Freed's Moondog Coronation Ball in Cleveland. Some rock historians have claimed the March 21, 1952, show as the first rock concert — the main reason the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was located there.

Other historians point to "Rocket 88," the 1951 hit written by Ike Turner, as the first rock record because of its distorted electric guitar sound. Still others claim Bill Haley's 1954 hits ("We're Gonna Rock Around the Clock" and "Shake, Rattle and Roll" (the latter a remake of a Big Joe Turner version) helped birth the rock explosion.

And of course, there are those who say that the blues and swing recordings of black artists from years earlier were rock tunes.

"That's like one of those things that's so contested. I always thought it was when Big Joe Turner did 'Shake, Rattle and Roll,'" said guitarist Vernon Reid, formerly of the rock group Living Colour. "Everyone makes a claim and it's contentious."

Probably only die-hard Elvis fans or music historians are familiar with "That's All Right," a cover of a blues number by Arthur Crudup. Released in 1954 by the famed Sun Records, then a local blues label in Memphis owned by a relatively unknown Sam Phillips, it was not a national success, but caused a sensation when played on local radio.

Presley's upbeat version, mixing in a bit of country twang, gave the song a different sound. It created a buzz for Presley that eventually caught the attention of RCA Records, which bought out Elvis' contract a year later. Pres-

ley wouldn't get his first pop No. 1 single until 1956 with "Heartbreak Hotel."

When pressed, even folks in Memphis won't go as far as to say "That's All Right" was the definitive date rock was created.

"I think if you look at the annals of history, people look at that date as something that had a dramatic effect on rock 'n' roll," said Kevin Kane, president and CEO of the Memphis convention and visitors bureau.

Even during a tour of Sun Studio, still the tiny structure it was in 1954, the tour guide points to "Rocket 88" — also recorded there before Phillips started Sun Records — as the first rock record.

Sitting in the small gift shop and cafe that serves as a greeting point for visitors — many of them Elvis faithful on their way to Graceland — John Schorr, Sun Studio's owner, acknowledges that.

"I don't think anyone is calling this the very first rock 'n' roll song ever made, but it is the first time rock 'n' roll went global and exploded on the world scene," says Schorr, who purchased Sun more than a decade ago (it remains a recording studio).

"Everyone refers to it as kind of the opening shot of the big bang of rock 'n' roll that occurred in rock 'n' roll, which the other ones hadn't done yet."



Elvis Presley



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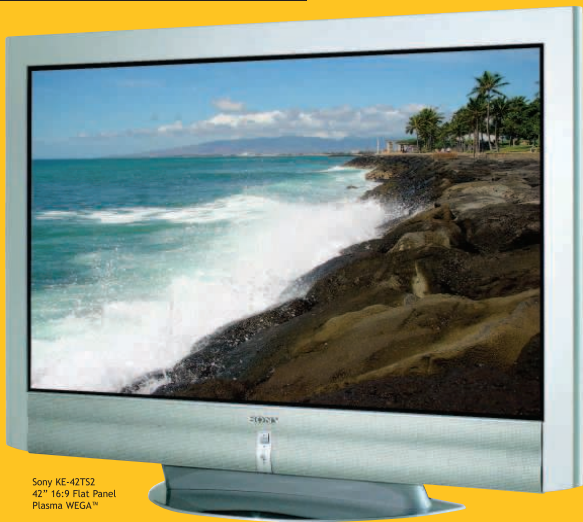
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J. Gordon takes 3rd straight pole

Four-time Cup champ confident going into Pepsi 400 at Daytona

BY MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Gordon is riding a wave that could wind up swamping the rest of the Nextel Cup series.

Two weeks ago he won the pole at Michigan and led 81 of the first 89 laps before the engine in his Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet went up in smoke.

Last weekend, on the road course in Sonoma, Calif., he won the pole, led every practice and overpowered the rest of the field in winning the race.

Now, at Daytona International Speedway, where NASCAR requires horsepower-sapping carburetor restrictor plates to keep the cars under 200 mph, he's on the pole for the third straight weekend after topping qualifying Thursday night for the Pepsi 400.

"We've been qualifying great," Gordon said. "I didn't expect to be this fast here. But our practice speeds from last weekend to this weekend are pretty flawless right now and we're certainly riding a great wave."

Before his win in Sonoma — his third victory of the season — Gordon wasn't happy after disappointing finishes in three of the previous four events.

His 30th-place finish at Charlotte was what Gordon called "a bad day." A week later, in Dover, he crashed and finished 36th.

After a fourth-place finish at Pocono, the engine failure at Michigan resulted in a 38th-place finish that dropped Gordon to sixth in the series standings.

With the Sonoma victory in his pocket, the two-time Daytona 500 and two-time Pepsi 400 winner goes into the Saturday night race fourth, just 20 points behind third-place series champion Matt Kenseth and 22 behind teammate and series leader Jimmie Johnson.

"We've gotten our act together," Gordon said. "Our cars are handling well. We have tremendous power under the hood. Right now, these guys are really on top of their game."

It was his fourth pole of the season and 50th of his career.

"We're really making the most of every bit of resources we have and putting it on the racetrack," he said. "I'm having a blast right now and the confidence level certainly is high for us right now."

Gordon's lap of 188.659 mph bested Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s Michael Waltrip, another two-time Daytona 500 and former July race winner, who qualified second to put a pair of Chevrolets on the front row.

Waltrip ran a lap at 188.620 as the first of 49 cars to attempt to qualify.

Ricky Rudd qualified third and Dale Jarrett was fourth in a pair

Pepsi 400 lineup	
NASCAR Nextel Cup	
Thursday's qualifying race Saturday	
At Daytona International Speedway	
Daytona Beach	
Race distance: 400 miles, 160 laps	
(Car number in parentheses)	
1. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 188.659 mph	
2. (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 188.620	
3. (21) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 188.426	
4. (86) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 188.328	
5. (6) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 187.939	
6. (01) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 187.807	
7. (10) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 187.750	
8. (0) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 187.750	
9. (16) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Dodge, 187.644	
10. (5) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 187.418	
11. (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 187.149	
12. (77) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 187.148	
13. (12) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 186.994	
14. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 186.966	
15. (26) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 186.908	
16. (19) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 186.899	
17. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 186.878	
18. (11) John Andretti, Chevrolet, 186.674	
19. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 186.670	
20. (33) Kerry Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 186.670	
21. (6) Mark Martin, Ford, 186.567	
22. (44) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 186.528	
23. (30) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 186.528	
24. (43) Casey Mears, Dodge, 186.474	
25. (13) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 186.447	
26. (22) Jeff Burton, Ford, 186.401	
27. (2) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 186.374	
28. (99) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Dodge, 186.243	
29. (4) Jeff Green, Dodge, 186.147	
30. (7) Casey Mears, Dodge, 186.073	
31. (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 186.039	
32. (45) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 185.870	
33. (86) Bill Elliott, Dodge, 185.797	
34. (27) Kurt Busch, Ford, 185.725	
35. (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 185.716	
36. (13) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet, Provisional, 185.624	
37. (32) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet, 185.548	
38. (28) Elliott Sadler, Ford, Provisional, 185.548	
39. (30) Mike Wallace, Dodge, Provisional, 185.548	
40. (20) Mike Wallace, Dodge, Provisional, 185.548	
41. (20) Morgan Shepherd, Ford, Provisional, 185.548	
Failed to qualify	
42. (37) Chad Blount, Dodge, 185.540	
43. (27) Tony Raines, Dodge, 185.422	
44. (84) Derrick Cope, Chevrolet, 185.311	
45. (4) Eric McClure, Chevrolet, 185.151	
46. (100) Kenny Wallace, Chevrolet, 185.062	
47. (12) Kirk Sheldermire, Chevrolet, 183.012	

of Fords that use engines from the Jack Roush-Robert Yates partnership.

Daytona 500 winner Dale Earnhardt Jr., Waltrip's teammate, was fifth, Joe Nemechek sixth and Scott Riggs seventh. Ward Burton, Elliott Sadler and defending race champion Greg Biffle completed the top 10.

After qualifying was over, NASCAR disallowed Sadler's speed because both rear quarter panels on his Taurus were too low. It moved him back to the 39th starting position and moved Terry Labonte up to 10th.

Armstrong's appeal against book rejected

The Associated Press

PARIS — An appeals court Friday rejected Lance Armstrong's attempt to force a publisher to insert the cycling star's denial of doping allegations into copies of a new book.

Armstrong filed an appeal last year after a lower court rejected his bid to force publisher La Martiniere to insert a rebuttal into "La Confidential, the Secrets of Lance Armstrong."

The appeals court upheld the lower court's decision in its verdict Friday — a day before the start of this year's Tour de France, where Armstrong is going for a record sixth straight victory.

The judge who made the lower court ruling June 21 said Armstrong's request was an abuse of the legal system, and ordered him to pay the authors and publisher a symbolic \$1.20 fine.

The French-language book, which hit French bookstores two weeks ago, was written by David Walsh and Pierre Ballester and relies in part on allegations by a former Armstrong assistant, Emma O'Reilly.

In it, she claims Armstrong once asked her to get rid of used syringes and give him makeup to conceal needle marks on his right arm. She acknowledged that she didn't know what was in the syringes.

Armstrong has denounced the book's claims as "absolutely untrue."

The three-week Tour begins Saturday in Liege, Belgium.

Judge: Releasing transcripts would jeopardize Bryant trial

DENVER — The judge in Kobe Bryant's sexual assault case urged the Colorado Supreme Court on Friday to back up his order barring the media from publishing details from a closed-door hearing.

The judge cited the NBA star's right to a fair trial as well as privacy concerns for his accuser.

"While it is true that (the media's) First Amendment freedoms are extraordinarily powerful, they must not be permitted to overcome these most fundamental of personal rights," District Judge Terry Ruckelshaus's attorneys wrote in the court filing.

The high court had asked Ruckelshaus to justify his threat to hold media organizations in contempt if they publish details from a transcript accidentally sent to seven media organizations last week.

Sports briefs

The transcripts deal with attempts by Bryant's attorneys to introduce information about the accuser's sex life and about money she has received under a state victims' compensation program.

None of the organizations has published the contents. The Supreme Court said Ruckelshaus' order remains in effect until the question of its legality is resolved.

But the justices said they wanted to see whether Ruckelshaus was right on whether any of that information can be used during the trial, scheduled to begin Aug. 27 in English.

Bryant, 25, has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault. He has said he had consensual sex with the woman, now 20.

Rain gives Setzer truck series pole at Kansas

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — NASCAR truck series points leader Dennis Setzer was given the pole for the O'Reilly Auto Parts 350 when rain caused cancellation of qualifying Friday at Kansas Speedway.

He took the pole for the first truck race at Kansas in 2001 and has three top-three finishes — but no victories — in the 1½-mile tri-oval.

Former Bruin Donato returns to Harvard as hockey coach

BOSTON — Former Boston Bruins forward Ted Donato, who spent 13 years in the NHL, was hired Friday as the head hockey coach at Harvard.

Donato, 35, will be returning to the school he led to the 1989 NCAA championship.

Donato, who broke his foot on April 9 blocking a shot in the first period of Game 2 of Boston's Eastern Conference first-round series against the Montreal Canadiens, retired at the end of the season.

He played at Harvard from 1987 to 1991 and was named most valuable player of the tournament when the Crimson won the NCAA title in 1989. He was also a member of the 1992 U.S. Olympic team.



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Wooden will be surprised if Coach K leaves Duke

Reports: Lakers offer job to Blue Devils coach

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — John Wooden knows what Mike Krzyzewski is going through, having once been at the pinnacle of college basketball and approached by NBA teams.

And Wooden, who knows Krzyzewski but has not spoken with him about this matter, expects Coach K to stay at Duke.

Krzyzewski met with Los Angeles Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak on Thursday to discuss the NBA team's coaching vacancy, created with the announcement June 18 that Phil Jackson wouldn't return next season.

The Los Angeles Times and ESPN have reported that Krzyzewski was offered the job. Lakers spokesman John Black refused comment Friday.



Krzyzewski

surprised to see Mike Montgomery take the job he took, too. So I guess you shouldn't really be surprised."

Krzyzewski has a 621-179 record in 24 seasons at Duke, leading the Blue Devils to NCAA championships in 1991, 1992 and 2001. Under the 57-year-old Krzyzewski, the Blue Devils have 10 Final Four appearances, three Atlantic Coast Conference tournament championships and 10 conference regular-season titles.

Montgomery left Stanford in May after 18 years at the school to become coach of

Golden State, signing a four-year, \$10 million contract. Like Krzyzewski, he has never coached in the NBA.

Wooden coached UCLA to 10 NCAA championships in a 12-year span before retiring in 1975. The Bruins were 620-147 in 27 seasons under Wooden.

He said he was approached several times by NBA teams, but never considered leaving UCLA.

"Not once," he said. "I don't think you have real coach. Who got Jackson fired, or was he fired? Did he get forced out? Players can get you fired, there's no question about that. Owners have complete control, they're going to favor a star player over a coach. The only thing that was ever enticing was the money."

"Everybody loves him [Krzyzewski], he has a great situation there, he gets the cream of the crop, some of them, every year. Success breeds success, good players want to go there. It's a fine university."

Wooden said that unlike most college coaches, Krzyzewski would command re-

spect in the NBA, but his strength as a coach—teaching—wouldn't be as significant.

"He's one of the best teachers of the game," Wooden said. "When you go into the pros, you don't do as much teaching. You've got to teach them a particular philosophy. You're not going to be able to change their fundamentals too much."

Wooden said he has much respect for Krzyzewski.

"A few years ago, when I was there for the McDonald's All-Star game, he invited me to speak with his team," Wooden said. "I thoroughly enjoyed it. I could see how he conducted his practices. Very impressed, indeed I was."

"You just have to consider him, and not because of the championships, one of the best there's been in the college game."

Former Houston Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich was believed to be the leading candidate for the Lakers' coaching job until the news concerning Krzyzewski surfaced. Jesse Brandt, Tomjanovich's business manager, refused comment Friday.

NHL free agents make few deals on opening day

The Associated Press

The most unsettled free-agent period in NHL history began Thursday with some signing activity and more big names joining the list of available players.

John Madden and Jay Pandolfo each signed long-term deals to stay with the New Jersey Devils. Kris Draper re-upped with the Detroit Red Wings and Glen Wesley signed a new contract to stay in Carolina.

But the day started with St. Louis forward Paul Demitra and Carolina goalie Kevin Weekes being added to the group of 158 players not given qualifying offers by their teams, meaning their unrestricted free agents.

Defenseman Jaroslav Modry was the only free agent to switch teams on Day 1, leaving the Los Angeles Kings for a three-year deal worth \$7 million with Atlanta.

Madden signed a five-year, \$20 million deal with the Devils. Draper got a four-year contract worth \$11.2 million from Detroit, and Wesley came to terms on a one-year contract with Carolina.

The purse strings are expected to be tight with the NHL's financial landscape in flux. The collective bargaining agreement between the league and the players association expires on Sept. 15.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman is seeking "cost certainty" in the new agreement, believed by the union to mean a salary cap that it won't accept. With the season close to mid-July, a prolonged lockout that threatens next season is feared.

The Blues decided not to make the \$6.5 million qualifying offer to Demitra, fifth on the team's career points and assists lists.

On Friday, the Calgary Flames re-signed left wing Steve Simon and free-agent forward Byron Ritchie.

Simon had 17 goals and 44 assists and was second in the NHL with 250 penalty minutes in 78 games with the Rangers and Flames last season.

Rain suspends men's semis at Wimbledon

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Yawn.

A day after two enthralling, three-set women's semifinals delivered Wimbledon, unrelenting rain and uneven matchups conspired to produce a dreary Friday on which neither men's semifinal was completed.

When play was stopped at 7:15 p.m. local time, defending champion and top-seeded Roger Federer held a 6-2, 6-3, 4-3 edge. No. 2 Andy Roddick led 63rd-ranked Mario Ancic 6-4, 4-3, 30-40 in the other semifinal, originally slated to follow Federer-Grospan on Centre Court but moved to Court 1 in hopes of getting it in.

At 8 p.m., when the tournament decided to call it a day, Roddick scurried to a car waiting for him right outside the All England Club's gate.

The semifinals will resume at noon Saturday, which also fea-



Andy Roddick's match against Mario Ancic was suspended because of rain with Roddick leading 6-4, 4-3, 30-40 on Friday.

tures the women's final between two-time defending champion Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova.

"I've just been enjoying the moment," said the 17-year-old Sharapova, the third-youngest women's finalist in tournament history. "Every time I think about it—that I'm in the final—it's an amazing feeling, like it gives me goose bumps."

She earned her way into the title match by coming back from a set and 3-1 down to beat 1999 champion Lindsay Davenport 6-7, 7-6 (5), 6-1 Thursday. Williams erased the exact same deficit to beat Amelie Mauresmo 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-4, reaching her first Grand Slam final since Aug. 1 knee surgery.

"I still have those competitive juices and the desire," Williams said Friday. "That's something you wonder if you still have, of course. Still have it."

If this is all new to Sharapova, Williams has grown accustomed to playing in major finals: Saturday's will be her eighth. And Williams has grown accustomed to facing her older sister Venus.

Each of Serena's last six Slam finals were all-in-the-family affairs, dating to the 2001 U.S. Open.

"I definitely wish she was here," she said. "And I definitely wish it'd be ready to fight her in the final."

The U.S. Open is the only Grand Slam tournament that packs the men's semifinals and women's final into one day, billing it as Super Saturday. The alternative nickname around these parts is "court pick Wimbledon." And this has been among the rainiest fortnights on record. Two days were completely washed out last week, forcing play on the middle Sunday for only the third time in 127 years.

Organizers scrambled again Friday, postponing the women's doubles semis and shifting players from one court to another.

Defending doubles champion Jonas Bjorkman yawned as he walked through the players' restaurant, waiting to find out when—and where—his semifinal would begin.

Nash reaches 5-year, \$65 million deal with Suns

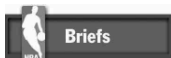
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Point guard Steve Nash agreed to a five-year, \$65 million deal with the Phoenix Suns on Thursday, leaving the Dallas Mavericks to return to the team that drafted him eight years ago.

The deal includes a "partial guarantee" for a sixth year, Nash's agent Bill Duffy said.

Nash shook hands on the deal with new owner Robert Sarver and Suns chairman Jerry Colangelo at a meeting in Dallas, Duffy said.

NBA rules prohibit Nash from signing the contract until July 14. Teams were allowed to begin talks with free agents late Wednesday.



Briefs

Nash averaged 14.5 points, 8.8 assists and three rebounds per game last season, when he also received his first career triple-double.

Dallas officials said repeatedly since the season ended that they expected no problem keeping Nash, the spark plug behind their rise from one of the league's worst teams to one of the best. Along the way, the energetic, floppy haired guard became an All-Star and a fan favorite.

"I think it was his intention to stay with the Mavericks," Duffy

said of the 30-year-old Nash. "Everything just turned around so quickly."

"I never dreamed we'd lose Nash, or any other player of his magnitude," Mavericks coach Don Nelson said Thursday night in Fort Worth.

"It's not like a trade where you get something back. There is no adjustment here. We lost a big part of our team and we don't have anything to fill it. It's a setback."

Nash was drafted by Phoenix in 1996 and spent two seasons backing up Kevin Johnson and Jason Kidd. He was traded to Dallas on draft day in 1998, the same night the Mavs acquired Dirk Nowitzki.

In NBA news Friday:
■ The Mavericks secured their

new backcourt. Marquis Daniels, a restricted free agent, agreed to a six-year deal worth roughly \$38 million and top draft pick Devin Harris signed a contract for at least \$7 million over three years.

■ Jerome Kersey was hired as an assistant coach for the Milwaukee Bucks on Friday. Kersey spent last season with the Portland Trail Blazers as their director of player programs following his retirement as a player.

■ The Denver Nuggets took care of their top offseason priority, agreeing to terms with forward Marcus Camby on a multiyear contract.

■ The 76ers signed first-round pick Andrew Thomas to a four-year overall selection in the draft, he averaged 12.9 points and 8.4 rebounds last season at Arizona.

Teen Lincicome takes Open lead

Amateur matches tournament low

BY DONNA TOMMELLE

The Associated Press

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass. — Ready or not, the kids are coming.

A record 16 teenagers are in the U.S. Women's Open field this week and one of them topped the leader board during the rain-delayed first round that finally wrapped up Friday morning.

It was not Michelle Wie.

Brittany Lincicome shot a 5-under 66 — matching the lowest round by an amateur in tournament history — to take a one-stroke lead at the Orchards Golf Club over Patricia Meunier-LeBeau.

"There's a lot of juniors that are coming up. They're going to be amazing players, whether they go to college or decide to turn pro," the 18-year-old Lincicome said. "The LPGA players better look out, because we're coming."

Meunier-LeBeau, the 2003 Kraft Nabisco champion, birdied the final four holes for a 67, twice hitting 54-foot putts.

Beth Daniel is three strokes off

the pace. She completed her first round of 69 Friday morning along with 74 other golfers after play was suspended because of darkness on Thursday.

Annika Sorenstam and Wie are among 14 players at even par.

Sorenstam started the day 2 under through 15 holes, but opened with a double-bogey after pushing her drive wide into the right rough on No. 16.

Lincicome matched the lowest score by an amateur (Carol Semple Thompson in 1994 at Indianwood), and tied the back-nine record of 30.

Lincicome eagled the par-4 15th, holing a 7-iron shot from the rough. It brought the teen to tears. "I looked at my dad and started bawling," the 6-foot Lincicome said. "I could not stop. I walked all the way to the green, my mom started crying, and then I started crying even more. Don't look at your mom when you're crying."

A lot of the fans missed most of Lincicome's sterling back nine.



Amateur Brittany Lincicome shot a 5-under 66, matching the lowest amateur score in tournament history, to take a one-stroke lead in the U.S. Women's Open at The Orchards in South Hadley, Mass.

They were all following Wie, who needed an eagle on her final hole for a 71.

"It could have been a lot worse today, and that eagle really got me on the right foot for tomorrow," she said.

Another top teen, 17-year-old Paula Creamer, coming off second- and 12th-place finishes the last two weeks on the LPGA Tour, was 3 over through 10 holes, but recovered for a 72.

Grace Park, who has finished first and third in the first two majors this year, and two-time Women's Open champion Juli Inkster opened with 71s.

Defending champion Hilary Lunke showed plenty of heart. She was 4 over after four holes, about what everyone imagined from a short hitter on a course playing every bit of its 6,473 yards. But Lunke buckled down with birdies, and a bogey on the 18th hole left her with a respectable 72.

Still, the opening round belonged to Lincicome.

"I figured that one of these days, if I proved myself, then people would notice who I was," she said. "I wasn't really worried. Michelle Wie and everyone gets way more press. But I figured if you play good here, then it will come to me."

Woods' caddie defends tactics

The Associated Press

The caddie for Tiger Woods said he was wrong to kick over a news photographer's camera during the U.S. Open, blaming his snap decision on hearing too many clicks from too many cameras at the wrong time.

"I lost my cool," Steve Williams said Thursday in a telephone interview from the Western Open. "I shouldn't have done that."

But he offered no apologies for taking a camera away from a fan at Shinnecock Hills, and no guarantee that he wouldn't do that again.

Woods has come under intense scrutiny over the last four months, especially when he failed to contend in the Masters and U.S. Open to extend his streak to eight majors without winning.

It all boiled over in the second round of the U.S. Open, when Williams walked across the 10th tee and kicked the lens of photographer John Roca from the New York Daily News.

In the final round, Williams spent a lot of time in pictures behind the second tee. He walked into the crowd and took the camera, which belonged to an off-duty police officer.

"I don't regret taking the camera off the guy," Williams said.

"I don't know how he got it on the grounds. If all the security and marshals were doing their job, it wouldn't happen. I'm not sorry about that."

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Roberts on top in Western Open

The Associated Press

LEMONT, Ill. — Loren Roberts can still show the youngsters a thing or two.

The 49-year-old shot a bogey-free 7-under 64 Thursday, matching his best round of the year, and held on for the first-round lead at the Western Open. Former champion Robert Allenby, the only player to make a charge in the afternoon, is one stroke back after birdies on his last three holes.

"I played real solid, tee to green," Roberts said. "I hit the

ball extremely well as far as putting it where I wanted it and hit a lot of greens. I drove the ball in the fairway just about every hole. If you're going to make some putts, it equates to a low score."

Reigning British Open champion Ben Curtis leads a group three strokes back at 4-under 67. Defending champion Tiger Woods broke out a new, graphite driver with a larger club head, but it

wasn't the answer for his sluggish game. He closed out a lackluster round with a bogey on the final hole, finishing at 1-under 70.

"I didn't play very well today," Woods said. "It's kind of how it's been. I get off to a great start, kind of lose it in the middle, then get it back. I just can't put it all together."

Goosen holds edge in Ireland
 STRAFFAN, Ireland — U.S. Open champion Peter Dinklage Goosen shot a 6-under 66 on Friday to take a two-stroke lead in the European Open.

Despite dealing with blustery wind and a heavy downpour late in his round, the South African had six birdies and no bogeys. He is at 9 under after two rounds and leads Dutchman Marley Wadkins, with Lee Westwood three strokes back.

Colin Montgomerie missed the cut, shooting a 10-over 82 as the wind intensified later in the day. He carded a 45 on the front nine.

Goosen won the U.S. Open 12 days ago.

Jacobson among leaders in first tournament since surgery

EAST MEADOW, N.Y. — Returning competitive golfer for the first time since undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his hip in April, Peter Jacobson shot a 6-under 64 Friday and was tied with Jerry Pate and Bobby Wadkins for the first-round lead in the Long Island Classic on the Champions Tour.

Jacobson, 50, played in one Champions Tour event and eight on the PGA Tour this year before having the surgery.

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MCCS Okinawa to field football league

Plans call for six teams to bring interservice competition back to island

BY DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A six-team Okinawa interservice football league is in the works. Marine Corps Community Services officials said.

Steve Rowland, director of Semper Fit athletic and sports programs for MCCS Okinawa, said plans call for four Marine teams, an Air Force team and a Japanese university team to begin play in late September.

Though the Marines run tackle football programs at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Camp Lejeune, N.C., Okinawa hasn't had a command-sponsored interservice football league since MCCS pulled the plug on the island's league after the 1989 season.

"The timing was right," Rowland said about the startup of the new league, adding that "there was an interest" among Marine Corps Base commanding officers and people within MCCS. "That's how things change."

There was also an interest "among the troops" that was brought to command, said Camp Courtney deputy commander Lt. Col. Anthony Bowman, who coached the Courtney-Hansen team in the U.S. Forces Japan-American Football League last year and will coach the Titans again in the new league.

"It's definitely something whose time has arrived. There's definitely some talent

on the island," said Bowman, who also will be the proposed league's coach and player liaison to Marine Corps Base administration.

Bowman said he fielded 200 phone calls and talked with people on the street who knew he was involved with football about the prospects of a new league forming on the island.

The two Marine teams in the USFJ-AFL last year, Courtney-Hansen and Futema, "proved that there was a ground-based interest," Bowman said.

"We're grateful for the opportunity that USFJ-AFL gave us," he said. "That served as a launching pad for this year's league. It's been 15 years. It's about time that football on-island came around again."

The hard part, Rowland said, was getting enough equipment to suit up four teams, Rowland said.

That effort began late last year. About 80 percent of needed equipment has arrived, most of it helmets, pads, jerseys, pants and spikes. MCCS is still waiting for blocking sleds and other practice necessities.

Equipment ran "between \$250,000 and

\$275,000," Rowland said, but justifying the expense was not a problem. "I have very understanding bosses," he added.

Player registration began Thursday and continues until Aug. 20, Rowland said. Coach registration opened Thursday and continues until the end of the month.

Team tryouts are scheduled for Sept. 1-12. Tentatively, MCCS plans the season to run from Sept. 25 to Nov. 14, with playoffs on Thanksgiving weekend and the league championship Dec. 4.

Despite waiting for the rest of the equipment, "I'm comfortable we'll be able to start in September," Rowland said.

Joining Courtney-Hansen in the league, Rowland said, will be teams from Camp Kinser and Camp Schwab. Futema Air Station and Camp Foster will combine forces to form a third team.

That may change, depending on operations tempo and the numbers available at Schwab, Rowland and Bowman said. Futema and Foster could field their own teams if Schwab isn't able.

The planned fifth and sixth teams would be in the league as invited guests, Rowland

said — Ryukyu University and the Kadena Dragons, another USFJ-AFL holdover.

Neither will receive funding from MCCS, Rowland said. Kadena Services does not plan to provide support for the Dragons, said Dawn Pierce, acting sports and fitness center director for Kadena Air Base.

Field availability isn't a problem. MCCS maintains fields at Futema as well as Camps Schwab, Foster and Courtney, the latter two which have lights.

"We have plenty of places to play," Rowland said.

Unlike the USFJ-AFL, which uses NCAA rules, Okinawa League games would be governed by National Federation High School rules, which are used by the Marines' stateside tackle programs, Rowland said.

As to whether the Okinawa champion would square off against the USFJ-AFL winner, Rowland and USFJ-AFL Commissioner Kyle Rhodus said the fact that the two leagues run at different times of year and use different rules might make that impossible.

The USFJ-AFL season runs from June to mid-August, with the league title game slated for Sept. 4 — three months before Okinawa's.

"In the future, if the two leagues run simultaneously, I think it's a possibility, but until then, I don't see it happening," said Rhodus.

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornaue@pstrips.osd.mil

**"It's been 15 years.
It's about time
that football
on-island came
around again."**

Lt. Col. Anthony Bowman

Camp Courtney
deputy commander




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Japan teams staying sharp in USFJ softball league

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP POSTER, Okinawa — For the first time in seven years, Japan base teams didn't have to shake off rust in the Firecracker Shootout Open Softball Tournament.

The Yokota Samurai and Misawa Red Dawgs — the two Japan team participating in this weekend's Firecracker — play in the newly formed USFJ softball league, men's varsity softball league, along with Yokosuka Naval Base, Camp Fuji and Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station. Misawa, Yokota and Yokosuka form the three-team women's league.

"What this gives us is a chance to play more games, and it keeps

us mentally prepared for when we come to tournament like this," Yokota player/coach Dana Finniss said.

The league fills the five-week void between the first Pacific Grand Slam tournament, the Pacific-wide Open over Memorial Day Weekend in South Korea, and the Firecracker.

The Raiders swept a three-way, three-game series with Fuji and Yokosuka the week before the Firecracker.

"It's great for us," Finniss said. "We have something to keep us game-ready."

Until the mid-1990s, USFJ sponsored competitive leagues in a variety of sports, with full regular-season schedules and end-of-season tournaments.

That ended in 1993, when budget cuts and town drawdowns after the Persian Gulf War led to an emphasis on intramural, company-level and youth sports.

The USFJ league was revived for one summer in 1997 but was by the wayside until Matt Kalcevich, the intramural sports director at Yokosuka, decided to form self-sufficient USFJ leagues, in much the same manner as the USFJ-American Football League.

"We're just trying to play back off the momentum we have with football," said Kalcevich, who refers to himself as USFJ's "extramural" sports honcho. "We're trying to establish leagues in soccer, volleyball and basketball as well. All will have the USFJ title."

Kalcevich said he became a one-man lobbying gang, contacting athletic and sports directors at the "big eight" bases in Japan — Yokota, Misawa, Iwakuni, Camp Fuji, Camp Zama, Atsugi Naval Air Facility and Sasebo Naval Base, as well as Yokosuka.

"We discussed and brainstormed, trying to make things as easy as we could for everybody," he said.

Taking on such a venture on a shoestring, with almost no support from each base and with the operations tempo brought on by Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, wasn't easy.

"It's better than not playing at all," Finniss said.

"The mission comes first. We know that," said Misawa player-

coach Rich Mitchell, adding that his team had to travel to next weekend's USFJ tournament at Yokota Air Base. "It's just hard with the mission being what it is. Going away for two weeks in a row is pretty hard."

Logistically there can be headaches. Yokota is comparatively fortunate to have a \$3,000 team budget, but "not everyone is budgeted," Finniss said. "Some teams have to raise money."

Yokota and Misawa also have the advantage of being able to check out 44-passenger buses for trips to other bases.

"Everybody has different levels of support and priorities but we're getting it done," Kalcevich said.

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauid@starsandstripes.com

Local scoreboard

Inter-service softball 9th Firecracker Shootout

At Foster Sports Complex, Camp Foster, Okinawa

Round-robin standings

Men's A Division	
Yokota Samurai, Japan	3-0
Pacific Force, Okinawa	2-0
Kadena Falcons, Okinawa	2-1
NMCRB-133, Okinawa	2-2
Tigers, Okinawa	1-2
Prime Time, Okinawa	1-2
ESB Hansen, Okinawa	0-3

Friday's games	
Prime Time 5, NMCRB-133 5	
Pacific Force 38, Tigers 1	
Yokota 7, ESB Hansen 0, forfeit	
Kadena 16, NMCRB 13	

Men's B Division	
Yellow Box, Okinawa	2-0
Misawa Red Dawgs, Japan	2-0
Mifflin, Okinawa	2-1
ESB Communications, Okinawa	2-1
Chinese Taipei, Taiwan	1-1
MACCS-4 Shockers, Okinawa	1-2
Dirf Bags, Okinawa	0-3

Friday's games	
Mifflin 19, MACCS-4 Shockers 3	
ESB Communications 8, Dirf Bags 5	
Yellow Box 16, MACCS-4 Shockers 1	
Misawa 14, Chinese Taipei 1	
Yellow Box 10, Chinese Taipei 3	
Mifflin 19, Dirf Bags 6	

Women's Division	
Kadena Falcons, Okinawa	3-0
Outkast, Okinawa	3-0
Rock Phins, Okinawa	1-1
Cherry Bombs, Okinawa	1-2
Torii Tides, Okinawa	0-2
Pacific Heat, Okinawa	0-3

Friday's games	
Kadena 15, Pacific Heat 3	
Cherry Bombs 7, Rock Phins 6	
Outkast 10, Pacific Heat 3	

GI teams bounced from Seoul hockey tourney

Stars and Stripes

ANYANG, South Korea — Two teams composed partly or entirely of servicemembers were knocked out in Friday's quarterfinals of an invitational hockey tournament at the Anyang Sports Complex just south of Seoul.

The Geckos Glaciers B side, who have four Korea-based GIs and a DOD civilian on the roster, fell 6-1 to the Glaciers A team. Soldier Paul Rigby scored Glaciers B's lone goal, assisted by soldier Donnie Corliss. Japan's Yokosuka Seahawks took 7-0 against the Tokyo Canadians.

Earlier, Glaciers B got its only victory in four matches, edging the Korea White Tigers 5-4. Corliss and Rigby each had a goal and an assist and Jack Janssen added two assists. Geckos A blanked the Seahawks 11-0.

In Thursday's openers, the Seahawks fell 4-0 to the Southeast Asian All Stars and 8-2 to a South Korean team from Incheon.

The Seahawks finished 0-4 in the tournament, while the Glaciers B went 1-3.

Buoyed by no-hitter, Falcons soaring

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP POSTER, Okinawa — Twyla Sears had no idea she was pitching a no-hitter. Nor did she think about much other than her Kadena women's team winning.

"I don't pay attention to that," she said after the Lady Falcons allowed one baserunner and blanked Pacific Heat 15-0 on Friday, the second day of the 9th Firecracker Shootout Open Softball Tournament. "I just want to play. I'm having fun."

So are her teammates. Ever since an 11-6 loss to Red Fox, a Korean team, which consigned them to third a month ago in the 14th Pacificwide Open tournament in South Korea, the Lady Falcons have gone 7-0 and outscored their foes 116-11.

"If we were in Korea now, there's no doubt we'd win it," said Kadena coach Al Lozano, whose team features players from the TPS Diamonds squad that won all three legs of the Pacific inter-service, Grand Slam in which it played.

Losing in South Korea seemed to light a fire under the club.

"They were very disappointed in Korea," Lozano said. "They tasted a bit of winning, but they didn't win it all. Now, all they want to do is play ball and practice. There's a lot of young players and they'll play anybody."

Their run began two weekends ago with a 14-4 victory in a practice game over Fleet Activities Okinawa — a men's team.

Next came the KinserFest tournament, in which the Lady Falcons bested three teams by a 55-5 margin. In its first two games in the Firecracker, Kadena won by scores of 15-0 and 17-2.

In Friday's victory, Sears retired the first 11 batters in error by shortstop Maegen Sinclair permitted the only Heat runner to reach base, in the bottom of the fourth.

Aside from that, "they're playing great defense," Lozano said. "I can play any of these players anywhere in the field. And we're scoring runs."



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Catcher Chris Christensen of Okinawa's MACCS-4 Shockers tags out Okinawa Mifflin's Rafael Felipe near third base during a rundown Friday in the Firecracker Shootout at Camp Foster, Okinawa. Mifflins won 19-3.

The scoreboard certainly attests to that.

Ross tries his hand at slow-pitch

Alone in representing South Korea in the Firecracker, Ross is also trying something new — slow-pitch softball, after having spent the last 28 years playing nothing but hardball.

"It's just like hitting soft toss or hitting fungoes to the outfield. You have to go with a more upper-cut swing," said Ross, 34, a third baseman for the Taegu Lumber all-GI baseball team and a teacher and basketball coach at Taegu American School.

He played third for Japan's

Yokota Samurai in the Firecracker.

Ross could be called a "baseball lifer." He's played everywhere he's been, including four years at Nile C. Kinnick High in Japan, where he played for Japanese club teams while coaching the Red Devils prep team and the Ikego Mud Hens club team.

About two weeks ago, he joined Taegu's post-level team in South Korea's Travels League — and the change in pace from facing 90-mph fastballs to slow-pitch cupcakes was noticeable.

He fouled out, popped up and grounded to the pitcher in his first three at-bats.

"It was my first time adjusting

to that strike zone. If the ball hits the plate, it's a ball. Stuff like that," Ross said. "So I tried to keep my hands back and wait, try to go to right field."

That paid off. A week ago against Olan Air Base, he hit a three-run homer. "So in baseball or softball, I can go yard," he said.

The chance to play for Yokota came when Taegu, slated to attend the Firecracker, withdrew because of duty commitments. Ross then contacted Yokota player-coach Dana Finniss, who offered him a spot on the team.

"These guys are motivated and they play to win," Ross said. "I but 11th and there's 10 in front of me wanting to play."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauid@starsandstripes.com

Flying finish

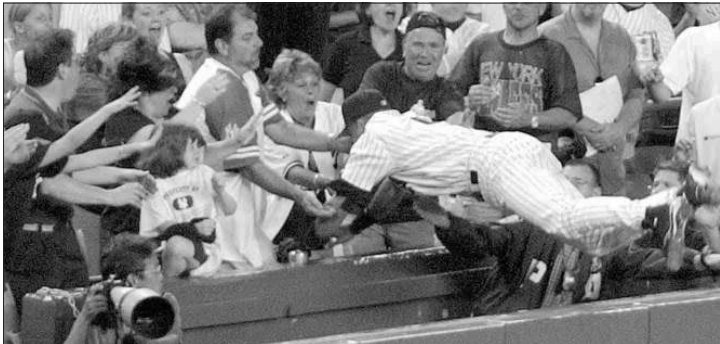
Jeter's snazzy catch key play as Yanks take three from Sox

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bloodied and bruised, Derek Jeter showed just why the New York Yankees always seem to come out ahead of the Boston Red Sox.

The All-Star shortstop made one of the greatest plays of his championship career, hurling headfirst into the stands at full tilt for a catch to end the 12th inning. While he was on his way to a hospital, the Yankees rallied for a 5-4 victory in 13 innings and a three-game series sweep.

"The stomach, the heart, there was no quitting," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "Jeter, of course, scared the hell out of everybody. Hopefully, he'll be all right."



AP

New York shortstop Derek Jeter vaults into the box seats after a running catch in the 12th inning of Thursday night's game victory over Boston.

AL Roundup

Manny Ramirez homered twice, including a leadoff shot in the top of the 13th. But with two outs in the bottom half, Miguel Cairo hit a tying double and scored on pinch-hitter John Flaherty's game-winning single.

Boston's Pedro Martinez got the game off to a hot start, hitting Gary Sheffield in the back with a pitch in the opening inning and clanking the sellout crowd. Tony Clark and Jorge Posada homered off Martinez to give the Yankees a 3-0 lead.

Yankees rookie Brad Halsey

matched Martinez into the middle innings, and then the real drama began.

The Yankees extended their AL East lead over Boston to 8½ games.

The Red Sox have lost eight of 11.

In a game that had a little bit of everything, both teams blew bases-loaded chances in extra innings before the Yankees wound up with their fifth straight win.

Tanyon Sturtze (3-0) got the win, Curtis Leskanic (0-4) the loss.

In other AL games Thursday:

Mariners 8, Rangers 4: Australian left-hander Travis Blackley won his major league debut and Randy Winn drove in three runs for the host Mariners.

Seattle had six doubles among 12 hits and split the four-game series with the AL West-leading Rangers.

The 21-year-old Blackley (1-0) allowed four runs and six hits in 5½ innings. John Wasdin (1-1) allowed seven runs and eight hits in 2½ innings.

Orioles 3, Royals 2: Rafael Palmeiro homered, the 539th of his career, and David Newhan drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh, leading the visiting Orioles to their first series victory since late May.

Rodrigo Lopez (6-4) survived a rough first inning and retired his last 15 batters. Jorge Julio earned his 11th save in completing a four-hitter. The Orioles retired the last 24 Kansas City batters.

Zack Greinke (1-5) allowed three runs and seven hits in 6½ innings.

Rays: GM thinks Piniella doing his best managing in Tampa

RAYS, FROM BACK PAGE

At about \$23 million, Tampa Bay has the lowest payroll in baseball. The team's biggest weakness is starting pitching, and the schedule figures to be an obstacle, too, with 24 games remaining against the Yankees and Red Sox.

"As Lou has said many times, we were as bad as we played early? Absolutely not. Are we as good as what we played lately? Probably not," General Manager Chuck LaMar said. "This is a marathon, not a sprint. Over 162 games, the best teams win in the major leagues."

Since May 20, the Devil Rays have gone 8-2 against division leaders and — at least momentarily —

knocked three teams out of first place. In addition, they took two of three games from San Francisco for the Giants' only series loss during a three-week stretch.

Emerging young stars Carl Crawford, Julio Lugo, Jose Cruz Jr., Aubrey Huff and Rocco Baldelli all hit over 300 during the 32-game stretch that righted the season after Tampa went 3-19 from April 25 to May 19.

The bullpen made up for a lack of solid starting pitching, going 11-1 with 13 saves and a 2.88 ERA, prompting Piniella to say: "I can't envision any other bullpen in baseball doing a better job than ours."

Offseason acquisitions Cruz,

Tino Martinez, Rey Sanchez, Geoff Blum and closer Danyis Baez are playing key roles. And Piniella, lured from Seattle in October 2002 after a successful 10-year stint there, has made a big difference, too.

While many felt the fiery 60-year-old manager might lack the patience it would take to turn around the Devil Rays, LaMar believes Piniella probably has done the best managing job of his career.

"It's amazing how many people ask me: 'What's happened to Lou? No bases thrown, no hats kicked, no lunch tables turned over. What's happened to him? Is he feeling OK?'" LaMar said.

"He knew this club was better

than it was playing, and if he wanted to put on a show, selfishly, he could go out and do that and get the fans all riled up. But he knew that was not the best for this team."

Still, Piniella cautions that one good six-week stretch doesn't have the Devil Rays "out of the woods."

"We're not going to sneak up on anybody," he said. "The opposition is going to get tougher. You've got two teams ahead of us who want to keep us there and the two teams behind us who want to re-pass us. But put it this way, it's going to be fun."

The Devil Rays finished June on a 28-9 streak — best in baseball since May 20 — and one game over .500 at 38-37.

And, there is hope — and precedent — for a team staying afloat after a horrendous start.

The 1991 Milwaukee Brewers were 10th (43-60) on Aug. 3 and finished 83-79. Last year, the Florida Marlins were 33-37 after 70 games and went on to win the World Series.

"We just want to see what we can do," the 22-year-old Crawford said. "Who knows what can happen?"

Marlins manager Jack McKeon knows.

"Anything can happen in this game. They have a good young club," McKeon said. "Young kids can generate a lot of excitement. Reminds me a little bit of what we did last year."



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Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division				West Division			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
New York	50	26	.658	Oakland	42	37	.529
Boston	42	35	.545	Seattle	37	37	.500
Tampa Bay	38	30	.556	Los Angeles	34	41	.450
Baltimore	33	42	.440	San Francisco	31	44	.413

Central Division				National League			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Chicago	42	34	.553	St. Louis	42	34	.553
Minnesota	39	37	.513	Philadelphia	39	37	.513
Cleveland	38	39	.494	San Diego	38	39	.494
Indianapolis	37	40	.480	Arizona	37	40	.480
Kansas City	29	47	.383	Colorado	29	47	.383

Thursdays' Games				Friday's Interleague games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Cleveland v. Detroit 6, 10 innings				Chicago Cubs v. Chicago White Sox 2			
Chicago White Sox 2, Cleveland 1				St. Louis v. Montreal at San Juan			
Toronto 14, Tampa Bay 0				Tampa Bay at Florida			
Indianapolis 7, Anaheim 3				Philadelphia at Cincinnati			
Seattle 8, Texas 4				N.Y. Yankees at N.Y. Mets			
N.Y. Yankees 5, Kansas City 4				Los Angeles at Cincinnati			
Baltimore 8, Kansas City 2				Boston at Atlanta			

Friday's Interleague games				Saturday's Games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
N.Y. Yankees (Contreras 5-3) at N.Y. Mets				Chicago White Sox (Diaz 1-1) at Chicago Cubs			
Chicago White Sox 1, Yankees 2				St. Louis (Perez 2-2) at Philadelphia			
Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)				Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)				Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)				Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)			
Boston (Schilling 10-4) at Atlanta (Thomas 6-1)				Boston (Schilling 10-4) at Atlanta (Thomas 6-1)			

Saturday's Games				Sunday's Games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Atlanta (Halladay 6-5) vs. Montreal (Armons 1-2) at San Diego				Atlanta (Halladay 6-5) vs. Montreal (Armons 1-2) at San Diego			
San Diego 6, Atlanta 5				San Diego 6, Atlanta 5			
St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Houston (Griffiths 0-0)				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Houston (Griffiths 0-0)			
St. Louis 6, Houston 5				St. Louis 6, Houston 5			
Baltimore (Beard 3-2) at Philadelphia (Milwood 6-6)				Baltimore (Beard 3-2) at Philadelphia (Milwood 6-6)			
Philadelphia 6, Baltimore 3				Philadelphia 6, Baltimore 3			
St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)			
St. Louis 6, Cincinnati 5				St. Louis 6, Cincinnati 5			
San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)				San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)			
San Diego 5, Colorado 4				San Diego 5, Colorado 4			
Minnesota (Majumdar 0-3) at Arizona (Good 6-1)				Minnesota (Majumdar 0-3) at Arizona (Good 6-1)			
Arizona 6, Minnesota 5				Arizona 6, Minnesota 5			
Los Angeles (Jackson 0-0) at Anaheim (Cotton 5-7)				Los Angeles (Jackson 0-0) at Anaheim (Cotton 5-7)			

Friday's Interleague games				Saturday's Games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Boston at Atlanta				Chicago White Sox (Diaz 1-1) at Chicago Cubs			
Atlanta 7, Boston 6				St. Louis (Perez 2-2) at Philadelphia			
Cleveland at Cincinnati				Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Toronto vs. Montreal at San Juan				Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Philadelphia at Philadelphia				Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)			
Texas at Houston				Boston (Schilling 10-4) at Atlanta (Thomas 6-1)			
San Diego at San Diego				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)			
San Francisco at San Francisco				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)			
Los Angeles at Los Angeles				San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)			
Minnesota at Arizona				San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)			
Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs				Minnesota (Majumdar 0-3) at Arizona (Good 6-1)			
Los Angeles at Anaheim				Los Angeles (Jackson 0-0) at Anaheim (Cotton 5-7)			

Thursdays' Games				Friday's Interleague games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Chicago	42	34	.553	Chicago White Sox (Diaz 1-1) at Chicago Cubs			
Minnesota	39	37	.513	St. Louis (Perez 2-2) at Philadelphia			
Cleveland	38	39	.494	Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Indianapolis	37	40	.480	Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Kansas City	29	47	.383	Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)			

Friday's Interleague games				Saturday's Games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
N.Y. Yankees (Contreras 5-3) at N.Y. Mets				Chicago White Sox (Diaz 1-1) at Chicago Cubs			
Chicago White Sox 1, Yankees 2				St. Louis (Perez 2-2) at Philadelphia			
Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)				Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)				Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)				Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)			
Boston (Schilling 10-4) at Atlanta (Thomas 6-1)				Boston (Schilling 10-4) at Atlanta (Thomas 6-1)			

Saturday's Games				Sunday's Games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Atlanta (Halladay 6-5) vs. Montreal (Armons 1-2) at San Diego				Atlanta (Halladay 6-5) vs. Montreal (Armons 1-2) at San Diego			
San Diego 6, Atlanta 5				San Diego 6, Atlanta 5			
St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Houston (Griffiths 0-0)				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Houston (Griffiths 0-0)			
St. Louis 6, Houston 5				St. Louis 6, Houston 5			
Baltimore (Beard 3-2) at Philadelphia (Milwood 6-6)				Baltimore (Beard 3-2) at Philadelphia (Milwood 6-6)			
Philadelphia 6, Baltimore 3				Philadelphia 6, Baltimore 3			
St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)			
St. Louis 6, Cincinnati 5				St. Louis 6, Cincinnati 5			
San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)				San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)			
San Diego 5, Colorado 4				San Diego 5, Colorado 4			
Minnesota (Majumdar 0-3) at Arizona (Good 6-1)				Minnesota (Majumdar 0-3) at Arizona (Good 6-1)			
Arizona 6, Minnesota 5				Arizona 6, Minnesota 5			
Los Angeles (Jackson 0-0) at Anaheim (Cotton 5-7)				Los Angeles (Jackson 0-0) at Anaheim (Cotton 5-7)			

Friday's Interleague games				Saturday's Games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Boston at Atlanta				Chicago White Sox (Diaz 1-1) at Chicago Cubs			
Atlanta 7, Boston 6				St. Louis (Perez 2-2) at Philadelphia			
Cleveland at Cincinnati				Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Toronto vs. Montreal at San Juan				Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Philadelphia at Philadelphia				Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)			
Texas at Houston				Boston (Schilling 10-4) at Atlanta (Thomas 6-1)			
San Diego at San Diego				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)			
San Francisco at San Francisco				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)			
Los Angeles at Los Angeles				San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)			
Minnesota at Arizona				San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)			
Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs				Minnesota (Majumdar 0-3) at Arizona (Good 6-1)			
Los Angeles at Anaheim				Los Angeles (Jackson 0-0) at Anaheim (Cotton 5-7)			

Thursdays' Games				Friday's Interleague games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Chicago	42	34	.553	Chicago White Sox (Diaz 1-1) at Chicago Cubs			
Minnesota	39	37	.513	St. Louis (Perez 2-2) at Philadelphia			
Cleveland	38	39	.494	Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Indianapolis	37	40	.480	Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Kansas City	29	47	.383	Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)			

East Division				West Division			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
New York	50	26	.658	Oakland	42	37	.529
Boston	42	35	.545	Seattle	37	37	.500
Tampa Bay	38	30	.556	Los Angeles	34	41	.450
Baltimore	33	42	.440	San Francisco	31	44	.413

Central Division				National League			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Chicago	42	34	.553	St. Louis	42	34	.553
Minnesota	39	37	.513	Philadelphia	39	37	.513
Cleveland	38	39	.494	San Diego	38	39	.494
Indianapolis	37	40	.480	Arizona	37	40	.480
Kansas City	29	47	.383	Colorado	29	47	.383

Thursdays' Games				Friday's Interleague games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Cleveland v. Detroit 6, 10 innings				Chicago Cubs v. Chicago White Sox 2			
Chicago White Sox 2, Cleveland 1				St. Louis v. Montreal at San Juan			
Toronto 14, Tampa Bay 0				Tampa Bay at Florida			
Indianapolis 7, Anaheim 3				Philadelphia at Cincinnati			
Seattle 8, Texas 4				N.Y. Yankees at N.Y. Mets			
N.Y. Yankees 5, Kansas City 4				Los Angeles at Cincinnati			
Baltimore 8, Kansas City 2				Boston at Atlanta			

Friday's Interleague games				Saturday's Games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
N.Y. Yankees (Contreras 5-3) at N.Y. Mets				Chicago White Sox (Diaz 1-1) at Chicago Cubs			
Chicago White Sox 1, Yankees 2				St. Louis (Perez 2-2) at Philadelphia			
Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)				Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)				Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)				Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)			
Boston (Schilling 10-4) at Atlanta (Thomas 6-1)				Boston (Schilling 10-4) at Atlanta (Thomas 6-1)			

Saturday's Games				Sunday's Games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Atlanta (Halladay 6-5) vs. Montreal (Armons 1-2) at San Diego				Atlanta (Halladay 6-5) vs. Montreal (Armons 1-2) at San Diego			
San Diego 6, Atlanta 5				San Diego 6, Atlanta 5			
St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Houston (Griffiths 0-0)				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Houston (Griffiths 0-0)			
St. Louis 6, Houston 5				St. Louis 6, Houston 5			
Baltimore (Beard 3-2) at Philadelphia (Milwood 6-6)				Baltimore (Beard 3-2) at Philadelphia (Milwood 6-6)			
Philadelphia 6, Baltimore 3				Philadelphia 6, Baltimore 3			
St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)			
St. Louis 6, Cincinnati 5				St. Louis 6, Cincinnati 5			
San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)				San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)			
San Diego 5, Colorado 4				San Diego 5, Colorado 4			
Minnesota (Majumdar 0-3) at Arizona (Good 6-1)				Minnesota (Majumdar 0-3) at Arizona (Good 6-1)			
Arizona 6, Minnesota 5				Arizona 6, Minnesota 5			
Los Angeles (Jackson 0-0) at Anaheim (Cotton 5-7)				Los Angeles (Jackson 0-0) at Anaheim (Cotton 5-7)			

Friday's Interleague games				Saturday's Games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct
Boston at Atlanta				Chicago White Sox (Diaz 1-1) at Chicago Cubs			
Atlanta 7, Boston 6				St. Louis (Perez 2-2) at Philadelphia			
Cleveland at Cincinnati				Oakland (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Toronto vs. Montreal at San Juan				Seattle (Franklin 3-5) at St. Louis (Mar- guez 1-2)			
Philadelphia at Philadelphia				Tampa Bay (Vazquez 4-8) at Florida (Perez 2-2)			
Texas at Houston				Boston (Schilling 10-4) at Atlanta (Thomas 6-1)			
San Diego at San Diego				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)			
San Francisco at San Francisco				St. Louis (Edwards 1-0) at Cincinnati (Pawson 1-7)			
Los Angeles at Los Angeles				San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)			
Minnesota at Arizona				San Diego (March 5-5) at Colorado (Jeannot 6-7)			
Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs				Minnesota (Majumdar 0-3) at Arizona (Good 6-1)			
Los Angeles at Anaheim				Los Angeles (Jackson 0-0) at Anaheim (Cotton 5-7)			

Thursdays' Games				Friday's Interleague games			
Team	W	L	Pct	Team	W	L	Pct

Cubs dodge grand slam; Zambrano holds off Sox

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Carlos Zambrano settled down after a shaky first inning — benefiting when umpires reversed an initial call and ruled that a grand slam had instead gone foul — and pitched the Chicago Cubs to a 6-2 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Friday.

Zambrano (9-3) allowed two hits in 6½ innings before leaving in the seventh with a cramp in his right forearm after throwing 123 pitches.

NL Roundup

The Cubs finished with 12 hits and ended the White Sox's five-game winning streak.

Zambrano surrendered a two-run, bases-loaded single in the first to Ross Gload, who one pitch earlier nearly had a grand slam.

Gload fouled off three straight 3-2 pitches from Zambrano and then sent a drive that cleared the wall close to the foul pole in right field.

First base umpire and crew chief Charlie Reliford signaled fair ball and as Gload trotted around the bases with an apparent grand slam, Sammy Sosa raced in from right and manager Dusty Baker from the dugout to argue.

Reliford then huddled with his fellow umpires in the infield and the call was reversed — replays showed the ball was foul — sending White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen out to argue.

Gload returned to the plate and drove a two-run double to left.

The only other hit off Zambrano was a single by Tim Lincecum in the second. The White Sox didn't get another hit until Paul Konerko doubled in the ninth off LaTroy Hawkins.

Francis Beltran replaced Zambrano after he was injured and pitched 1½ scoreless innings.

Gload had a part in another big play in the bottom of the second when he dropped Derrek Lee's fly ball for an error, allowing Aramis Ramirez, who had doubled, to score.

Mark Grudzielanek singled and Corey Patterson doubled in the third off Esteban Loaiza (8-4) before Sosa hit a go-ahead, two-run single. Patterson scored on a hard slide as White Sox catcher Jamie Burke couldn't hold the throw.

Zambrano hit a sacrifice fly in the fourth to score Michael Barrett, who doubled and moved up on a fly by Ramon Martinez. Barrett made it 5-2 with a sacrifice fly and Grudzielanek added an RBI single in the eighth.

Loaiza, who had won four straight decisions, gave up eight hits and five runs in six innings. It was his first loss since May 15.

In NL games Thursday:

Dodgers 5, Giants 4: Shawn Green homered and doubled in the go-ahead run in the eighth,



Barry Bonds homers against Los Angeles on Thursday night. It was the 679th home run of his career.

and the host Dodgers rallied to beat the Giants.

Felix Rodriguez (2-4) relieved Jason Schmidt to start the eighth and gave up a one-out walk to Milton Bradley.

Green then drove a 2-1 pitch into the left-center alley to give the Dodgers their first lead.

Eric Gagne struck out the side in the ninth for his 20th save, and major league record 83rd in a row.

Barry Bonds hit his 21st homer, the 679th of his career. Schmidt gave up four runs on six hits in seven innings, and also hit his fourth career homer.

Diamondbacks 7, Padres 5: Roberto Alomar hit his first grand slam in four years and the Diamondbacks hung on to beat the visiting Padres.

Alomar's first home run of the season came off Ismael Valdez (6-5) and erased San Diego's 3-2 lead in the fourth.

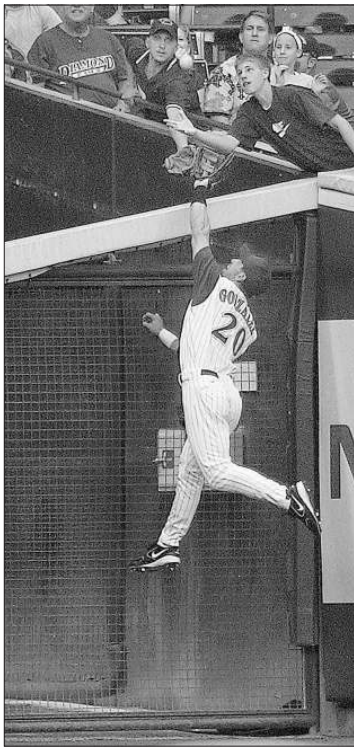
The Diamondbacks, who snapped a club-record 11-game losing streak Wednesday night, split the four-game series and won two in a row for the first time since June 10, a stretch of 18 games.

Braves 9, Marlins 1: Andrew Jones hit a three-run double and Eli Marrero followed with a homer during a six-run first inning for the host Braves.

Marrero added a run-scoring single in the seventh and Russ Ortiz (8-6) pitched into the eighth to help the Braves take three of four from the Marlins.

Phillies 10, Expos 5: Mike Lieberthal hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs and Pat Burrell had three hits and three RBIs for the host Phillies.

Brewers 10, Rockies 9: Lyle Overbay hit a two-run double, Victor Santos (7-3) earned his fifth victory in six starts and Milwaukee edged Colorado for its fifth straight victory.



Arizona Diamondbacks left fielder Luis Gonzalez leaps in a vain attempt to catch a home run off the bat of San Diego's Phil Nevin in the second inning of Thursday's game in Phoenix. Arizona beat the Padres 7-5.

Three years after title, Diamondbacks fire Brenly

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Bob Brenly was fired Friday as manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks, a team struggling with the third-worst record in the National League.

The move was anticipated after weeks of poor play. The Diamondbacks had lost 11 in a row before winning their last two games against San Diego.

"This is never an easy decision to make, particularly with someone as well-liked and respected as Bob," said Jerry Colangelo, the team's chairman and chief executive.

Third base coach Al Pedrique was selected as interim manager.

Brenly, who led the Diamondbacks to a World Series championship in 2001 in his first year as manager, went 303-262 in 3½ seasons with the team.

Colangelo held meetings this



week with the franchise's ownership and front office personnel. Brenly's status was among the subjects discussed, and Colangelo had said he expected to make a decision by the end of the week.

The Diamondbacks are 29-50, next-to-last in the NL West.

Brown has parasites

NEW YORK — Kevin Brown was diagnosed with intestinal parasites, joining Jason Giambi as the second member of the New York Yankees to test positive for the ailment this week.

Brown has been out with a bad back since leaving a start June 9, but he said he's also been ailing "about 3½ weeks or so since we got back from Japan," losing 15

pounds and struggling even to get out of bed each day.

"I'd work out and feel weaker the next day, pushing myself down a hole — that's what it felt like," Brown said.

Brown had numerous tests that offered no explanations for what was sapping his strength. Then Brown learned Giambi had parasites.

"At least I understand why I struggled so bad," Brown said.

Struggling Nomo on DL

LOS ANGELES — Hideo Nomo, winless in his last nine decisions, went on the 15-day disabled list Thursday with inflammation in his right rotator cuff.

Los Angeles General Manager Paul DePodesta said it's likely Nomo (3-10) would be sidelined longer than that. "It's pretty clear he's not right," DePodesta said.

Nomo was scheduled for an MRI on Friday.

Boss faces tampering probe

NEW YORK — The commissioner's office said Thursday it was reviewing remarks New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner made about Arizona ace Randy Johnson this week to determine whether there was any tampering that could result in a fine.

"It involves talking about someone under contract to another team," spokesman Matt Gould said.

With the July 31 trade deadline approaching and the Yankees possibly looking to add another starting pitcher, Steinbrenner reiterated Wednesday his respect for Johnson.

"God, who wouldn't love to have Randy Johnson?" Steinbrenner told Sporting News Radio.

"He's a dominator and we'd love to have him. Anybody would love to have him, but I also know that (Diamondbacks owner) Jerry Colangelo is not going to give him away."

Drums reunited in Atlanta

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves brought up right-hander Tim Lincecum on Thursday, making him and older brother J.D. the 12th pair of siblings to play together with the team.

Atlanta purchased Tim Drew's contract from Triple-A Richmond, where he was 4-5 with one save and a 3.24 ERA in 18 games.

Olivo has kidney stones

SEATTLE — The Seattle Mariners put catcher Miguel Olivo on the 15-day disabled list Thursday, one day after doctors fitted him with a stent to remove kidney stones. The move is retroactive to Wednesday.

SPORTS



USJ softball league keeping
Japan teams sharp between
tournaments, Page 43



Tampa Bay Devil Rays outfielder Jose Cruz Jr. high-fives teammates after a recent victory. After losing 28 of their first 38 games, the Devil Rays have rebounded and are the first team in major league history to rise above .500 after being 18 games below.

At last, Rays of hope

Tampa not a contender, but it's come a long way

BY FRED GOODALL
The Associated Press

L ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Piniella concedes he sounded pretty foolish. The Tampa Bay Devil Rays manager kicked off a winter luncheon tour by guaranteeing his young team won't end up in last place again and made an even bolder prediction of a .500 finish a few days later.

"A manager should be enthusiastic about the prospects for his team," Piniella said, chuckling at the recollection.

"The safest approach you can take is: 'Well, we made changes. But we're in a tough division, we have a small payroll and we're young, and I'm hoping we do well. What does that accomplish? Let your players know that you feel good about them and that you have confidence in them.'"

By the third stop on his good-

will junket, Piniella joked that if there were many more, he probably would wind up declaring the Devil Rays were going to win the rugged AL East and a World Series.

Well, no one's laughing now. The New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox are still the best teams in the division. But after losing 28 of their first 38 games, the Devil Rays turned their season around with a historic surge that carried them above .500 this late in the year for the first time.

They were a major league-best 20-6 in June, including a franchise-record 12-game winning streak, and became the first team in major league history to get above the break-even point after being 18 games below.

On their way to 99 losses last season — their first under Piniella — the Devil Rays won five games in June.

"I told them a month ago, the only way you're going to be able to turn your fortunes around is by playing hard every day, having fun doing it and coming to the ballpark and repeating it every day. That's exactly what they've done," Piniella said.

"But what's really going to define our season is what happens over the next three months. ... What we've done is not a fluke. It's not an accident. You've got to play good baseball. We've played good



Manager Lou Piniella, left, puts his arm around pitcher Devon Brazleton after Brazleton was taken out after 7 1/3 innings of no-hit ball against the Florida Marlins on June 25. Despite 99 losses last season, Piniella had faith in his team. So far, it has paid off.

baseball at home, we've played good baseball on the road. So we're certainly capable." The manager is hesitant, though, to go out on a limb and say the team is good enough to keep its current hold on third place in the division behind the big-spending, star-laden Yankees and Red Sox.

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Rain delays
men's semifinals
at Wimbledon

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Teen leads
Women's Open,
but it's not Wie

Page 41



D-backs fire
Brenly; promote
Pedrique to
interim manager

Page 47

Despite the startling turn-around, the Devil Rays still let one get away once in a while. Shortstop Julio Lugo fails to hang onto a single by Toronto's Greg Zaun in a 14-0 loss to the Blue Jays on Thursday.

AP

